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Measured Drawings

of

Some Colonial

and

Georgian Houses

by

Donald Millar

VOLUME THREE

ARCHITECTURAL BOOK PUBLISHING CO., INC.

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PREFACE

The houses included in this third volume of "Measured Drawings of Some Colonial and Georgian Houses" are comparatively unknown but not uninteresting. The author is indebted to Mr. Charles W. Warren for permission to measure Bacon's castle; to the "Architectural Record" for permission to use a drawing of Bacon's castle made for that magazine; to the Lexington Historical Society for the Buckman Tavern, and to the Woburn Historical Society for the Count Rumford Birthplace.

Brief historical notes have been included with comments on the architectural features of each house. Modern changes have usually been ignored and in the drawings old window-sash have been restored, in order to show the houses as built. For this purpose old drawings and photographs have been consulted, references and traditions verified, and all evidences of old work duly regarded.

Since the first appearance of this work there has been a renascence of appreciation for Early American architecture and furniture and the influence of these drawings on the neo-colonial work is apparent. Would that the architects would be more careful to perpetuate local pecularities of craftsmanship and design. Where these have been retained the old spirit has in many cases been recaptured and the new houses have all the dignity, the simplicity, and the well-bred charm of the originals.

New York, August, 1930.

HISTORICAL NOTES AND COMMENTS

BACON'S CASTLE, SURREY COUNTY, VA.

Arthur Allen built this house about 1655. During Bacon's Rebellion in 1676 the rebels seized it and since then it has retained its present title. It is an house of Jacobean England showing characteristics of East Anglian brickwork in gables and chimneystacks. The projecting brick window trim is unusual. About 1854 a large house was added to the eastern end and alterations made which erased the moulded trim around the doorway, which has been restored from an old wood-engraving.

The stairs seem to date from the early Eighteenth Century, as does the panelling in the lower rooms. The construction is plainly shown in the drawings. A high brick wall once surrounded the house, which must have been useful for defence. The Dining-Room panelling is most effective with its small panels. Some details are crude, perhaps the work of unskilled negro labour.

HOUSE IN WILLIAMSBURG, VA.

This is a typical Virginia small house, set on a high brick foundation, with chambers under a sloping roof with narrow, well-proportioned dormers. The excellent construction of the brick chimneys should be noted. There was a typical Virginia porch added about 1820, now removed. The china-closet on the west end is casually supported on a post. The stair is good. Late mantels have destroyed the earlier fireplace surrounds, undoubtedly heavy bolection mouldings.

NELSON HOUSE, YORKTOWN, VA.

This plate gives an accurate representation of the perfectly balanced facade of this, one of the finest houses of the Colonial period. It was built in 1754 by Thomas Nelson, Governor of Virginia. Moulded brick is used in the water table, chimneytops, and door-frame. The arched top of the windows is unusual but effective. The house has lately undergone a drastic "restoration."

BUCKMAN TAVERN, LEXINGTON, MASS.

The original house was the entry and east parlour with a leanto behind, built in 1690 by Benjamin Muzzy. It was opened as a tavern in 1714 and was the meeting-place of the "Minute-Men" on April 19, 1776. The long "tail" at the back has been omitted from the drawing, also a one-story wing running at an angle south-eastward. The original fireplace has been opened up. The present front door on the house is a "restoration," poor in detail. The one shown in the drawing has been designed from old photographs of the original, using old details. The West-Parlour Chamber has good detail and the fine old hinged partition has been removed. It should have been preserved. They were useful in tavern days to open two rooms for purposes of public balls, etc.

COUNT RUMFORD BIRTHPLACE, NORTH WOBURN, MASS.

This house, the birthplace of Benjamin Thompson, the celebrated Count Rumford, was built about 1714. The stair is an unspoiled example of early work. The West Parlour has details of about 1800, no doubt masking work as interesting as the fine early panelling in the chamber above. The front doorway is later, with poor detail.

ROOM IN BROWN HOUSE, CONCORD, MASS.

This is a well-balanced design and the corner-cupboard simple but charming.

MARRETT HOUSE, CAMBRIDGE, MASS.

This house was built about 1755-1765 by Capt. Edward Marrett. It originally stood on a corner, the east end facing on the other street. This large lower room has no old trim, and originally had in the end wall a door between two windows. Research proved it was a tailor-shop. The front doorway is well-done and the lower panels of the door form a charming design differing from the conventional finish. The stairhall and the staircase are the feature of the house. The Dining-Room with the chamber over it are the only rooms of interest, having good details. The closets on either side of the front door are a rare feature and most useful. The house has been removed and re-erected on the North Shore.

TOWNSEND-SWEETSER HOUSE, LYNNFIELD, MASS.

The peculiar framing of the entry and west rooms indicates that this house as it now stands is an enlargement of an older house. The present work dates from about 1725. Another room has been added at an early date at the east end, making the house very long for its height. The panelling in the "Keeping-Room" (as the living room used to be called) and the stair-hall are well done. Beside the door are two closets like those in the Marrett House in Cambridge—the only two instances known to the author. The details of the stairs are interesting and the front doorway has a fine curved and broken pediment. The pilasters are gone and the frame much mutilated. The cellar stair shows a very old construction and the gable end shows that this is evidently a house framed without studs for walls, but covered with boards, nailed vertically from plate to sill, as is shown in the plates.

MEASURED DRAWINGS

OF

Some Colonial and Georgian Houses

BY

DONALD MILLAR

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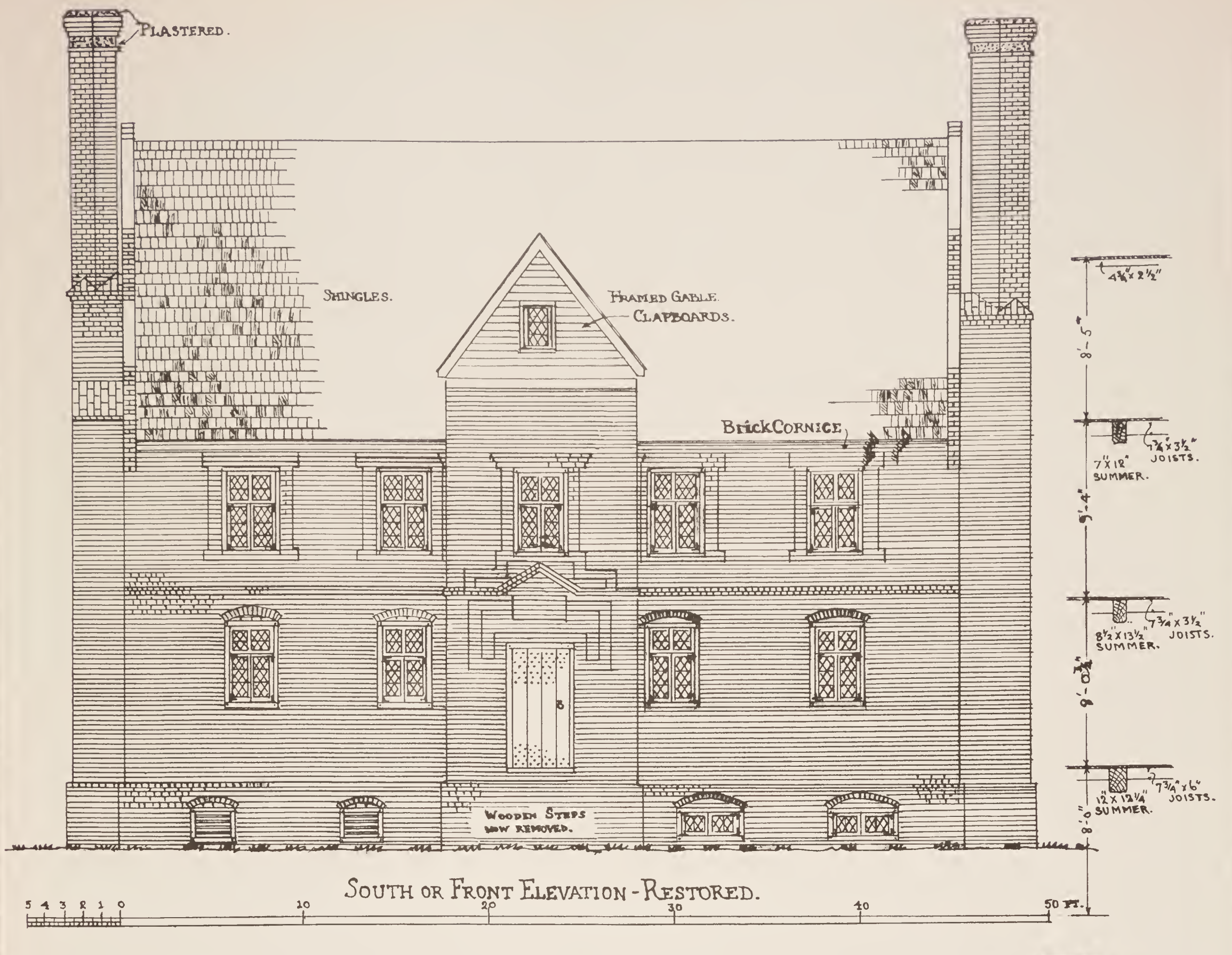
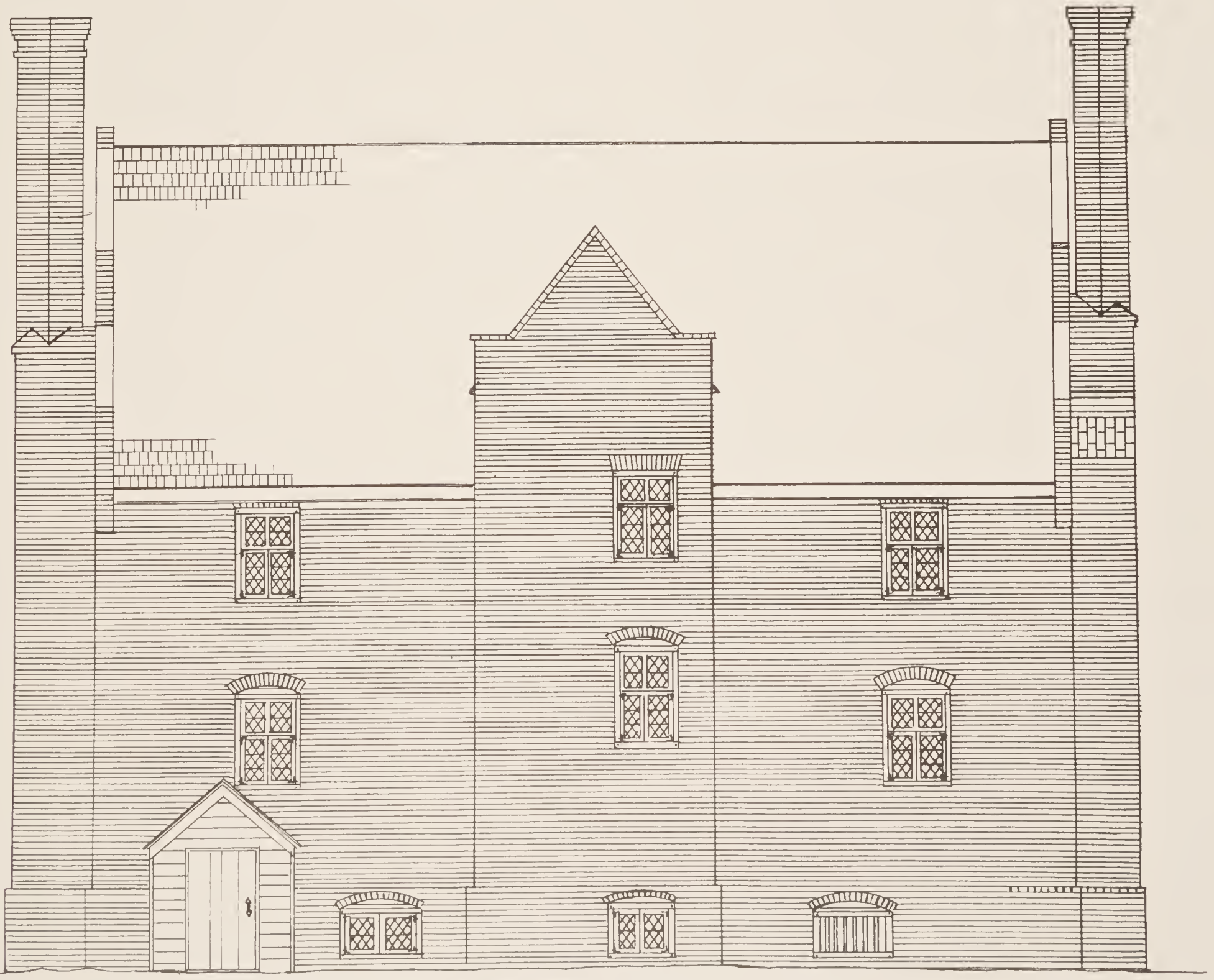


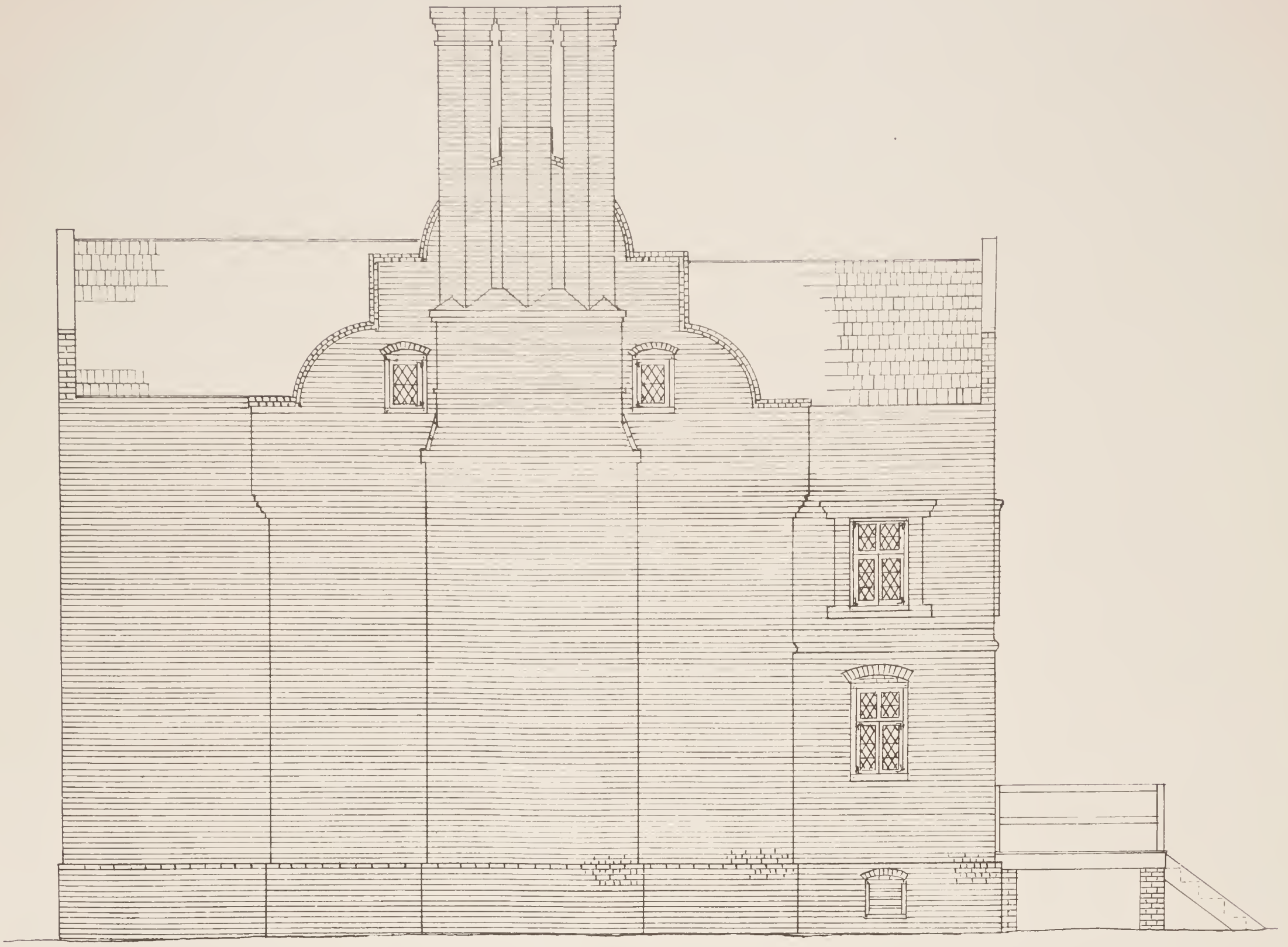
SOUTH OR FRONT ELEVATION - RESTORED.



NORTH ELEVATION.

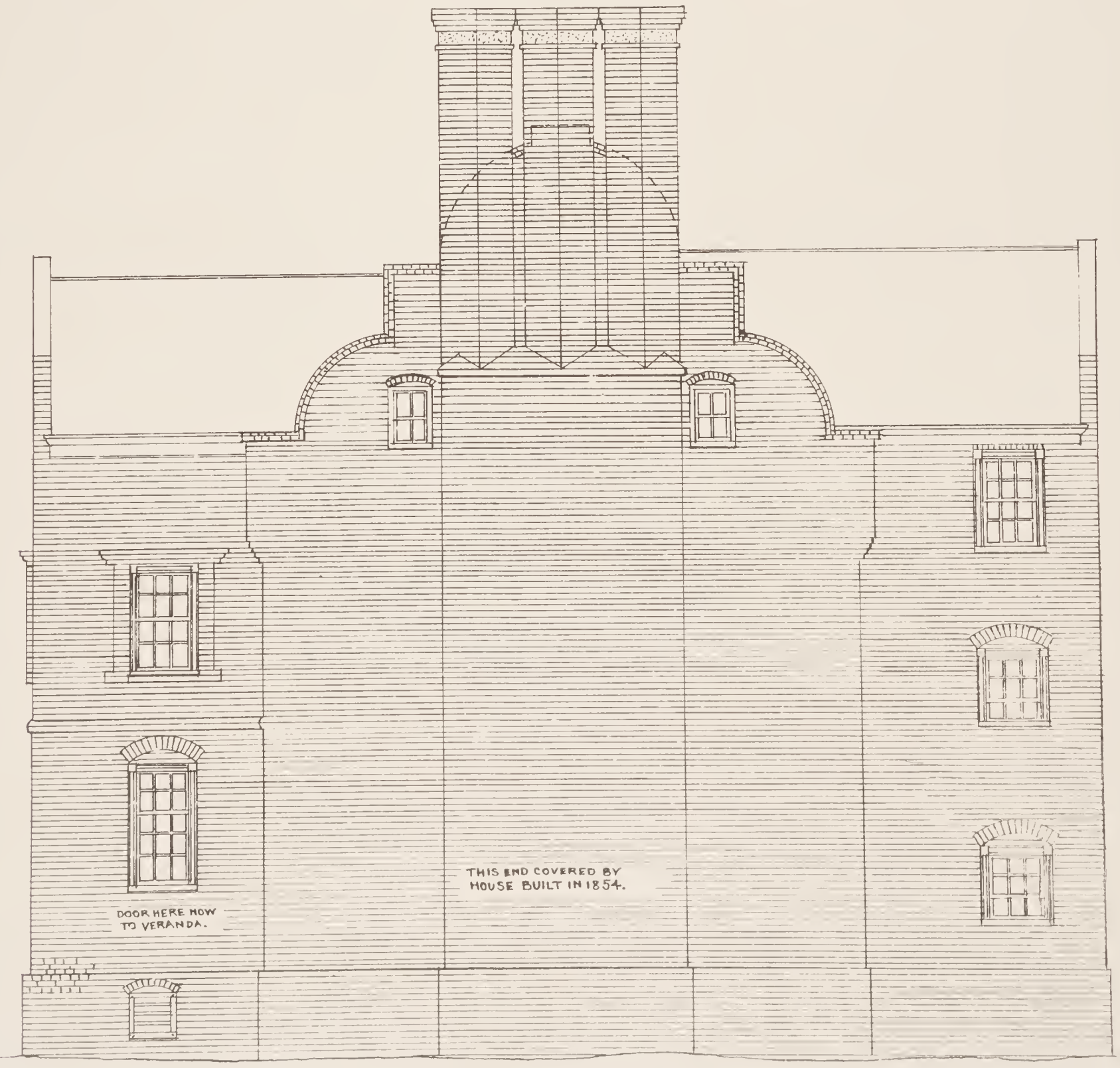
Scale

ARTHUR ALLEN'S "BRICK HOUSE" CALLED "BACON'S CASTLE". SURRY COUNTY, VA.
BUILT ABOUT 1660.

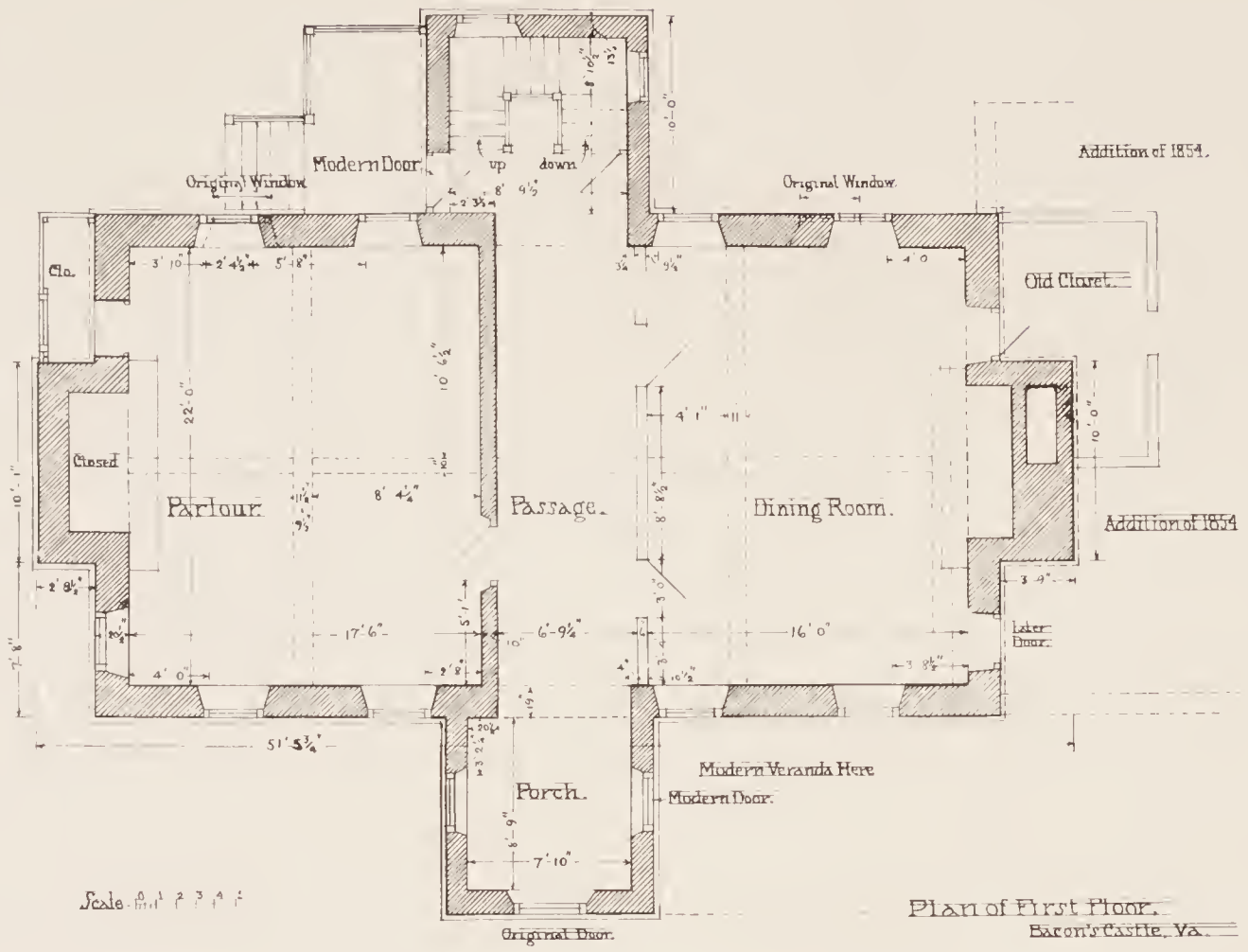


West Elevation.

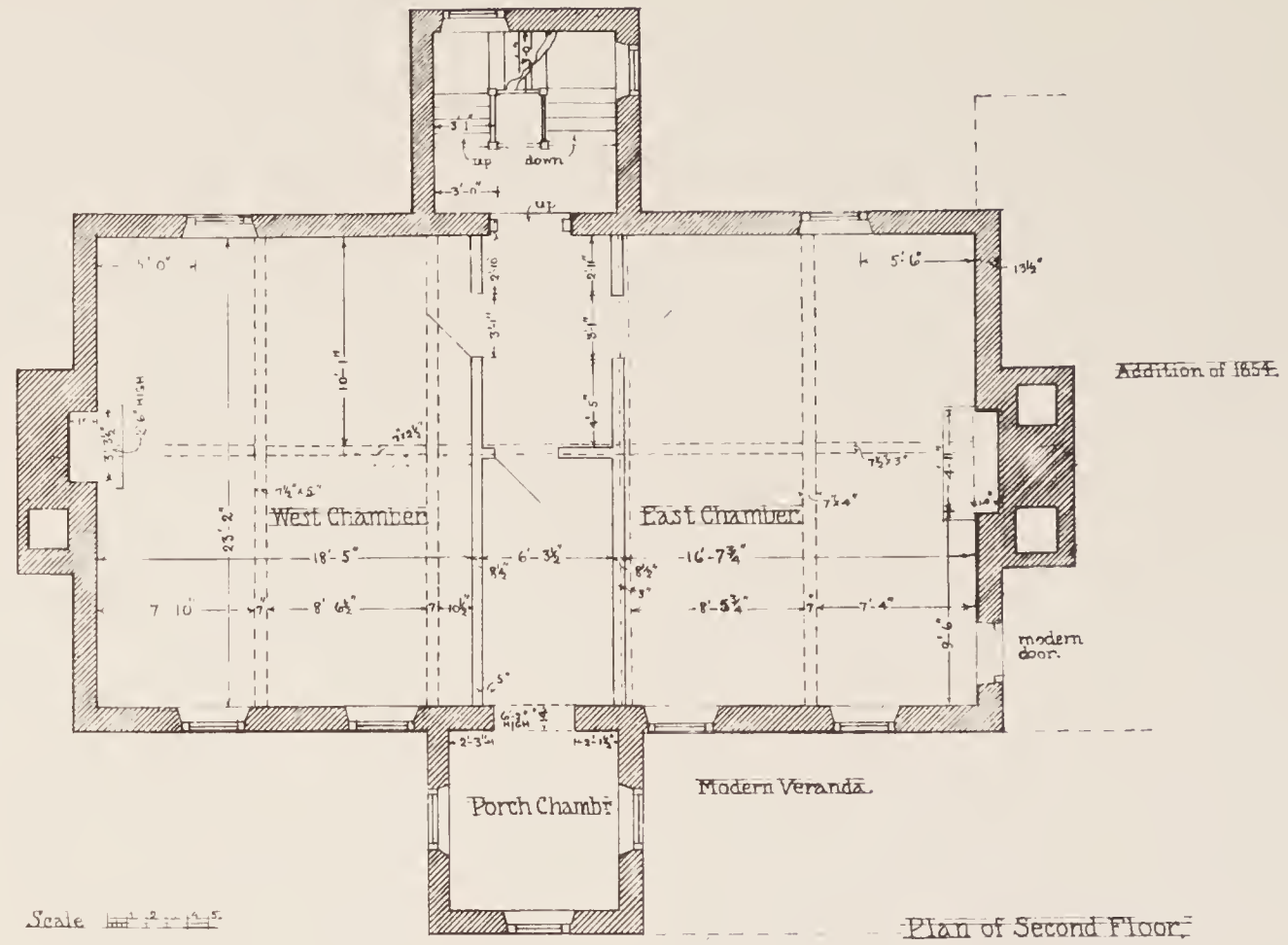
Scale 0 1 2 3 4.



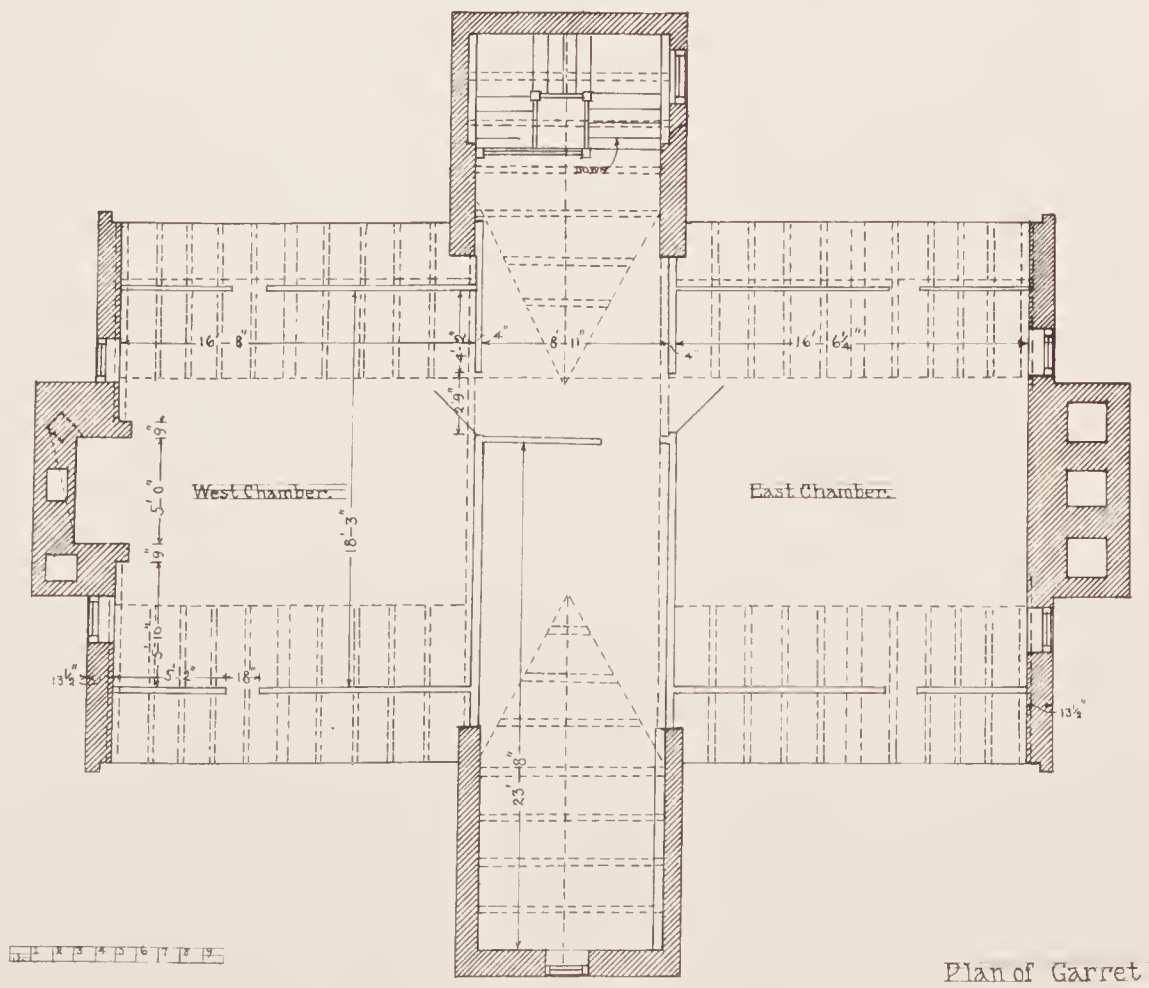
East Elevation.. Scale 0 1 2 3 4.



Plan of First Floor.
Bacon's Castle, Va.

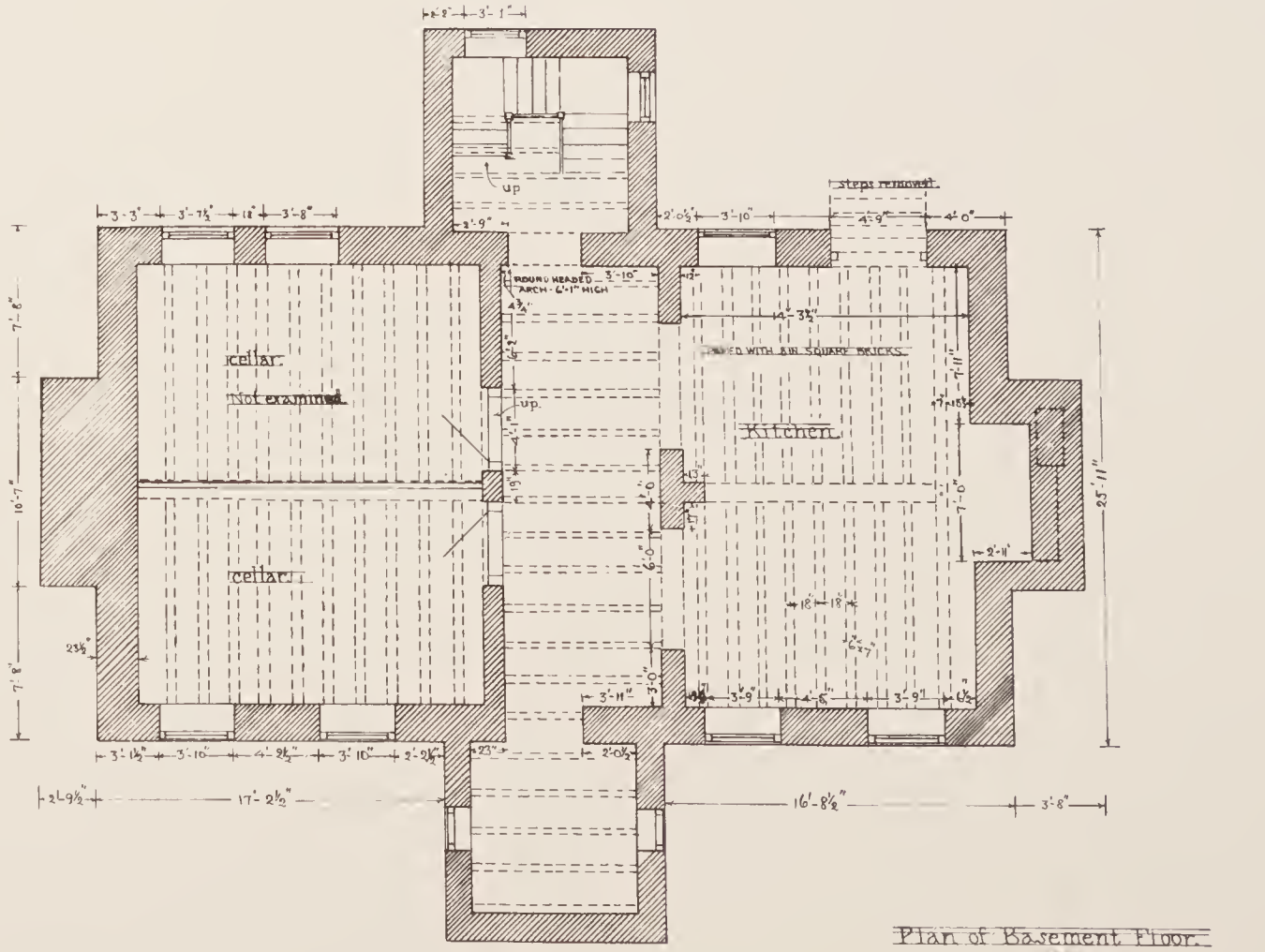


Plan of Second Floor.
Bacon's Castle, Va.



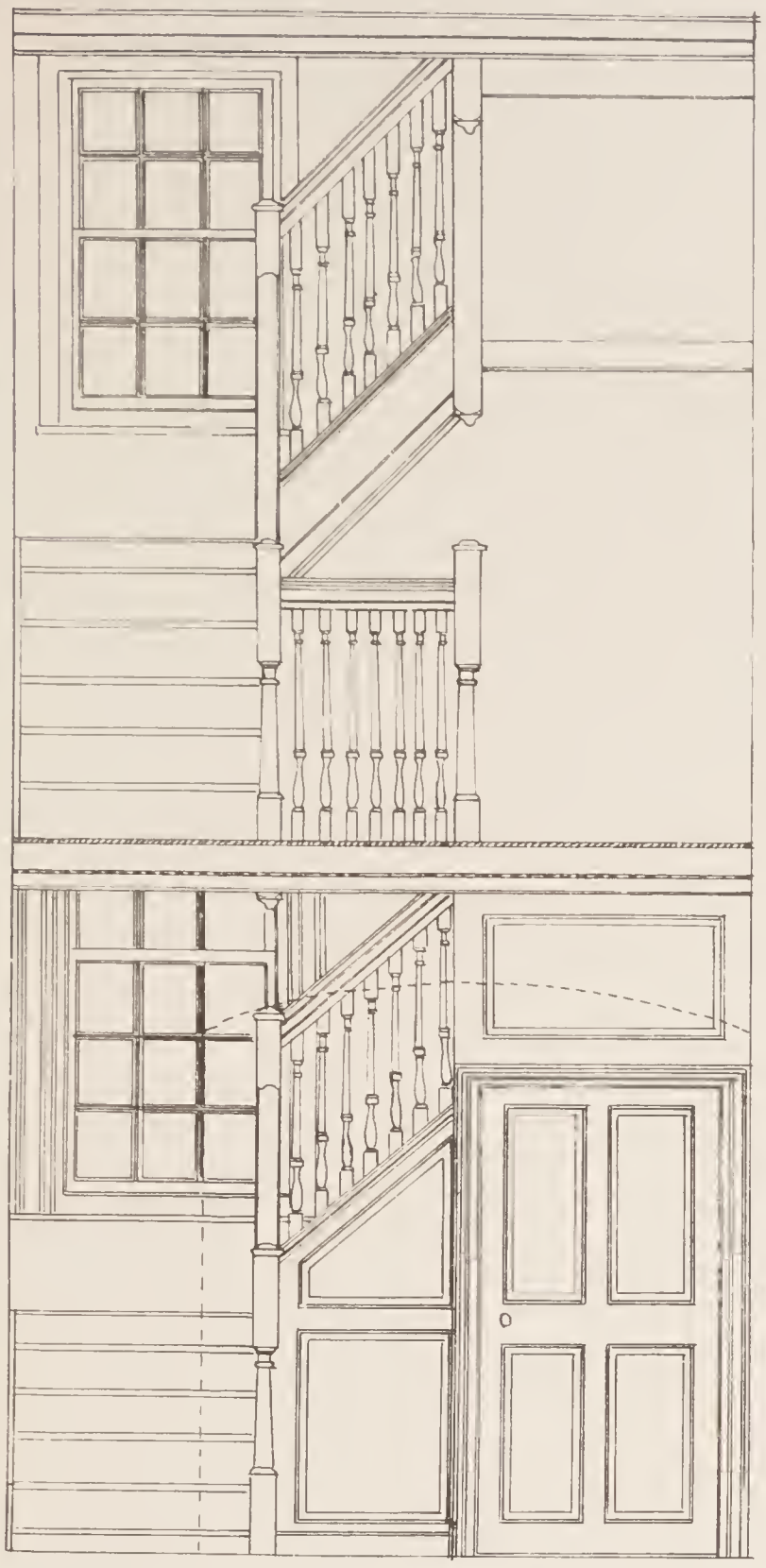
THIS GABLE HAS BEEN MUCH ALTERED AND A CIRCULAR WINDOW INSERTED-1854.

Plan of Garret Floor.
Bacon's Castle, Virginia.



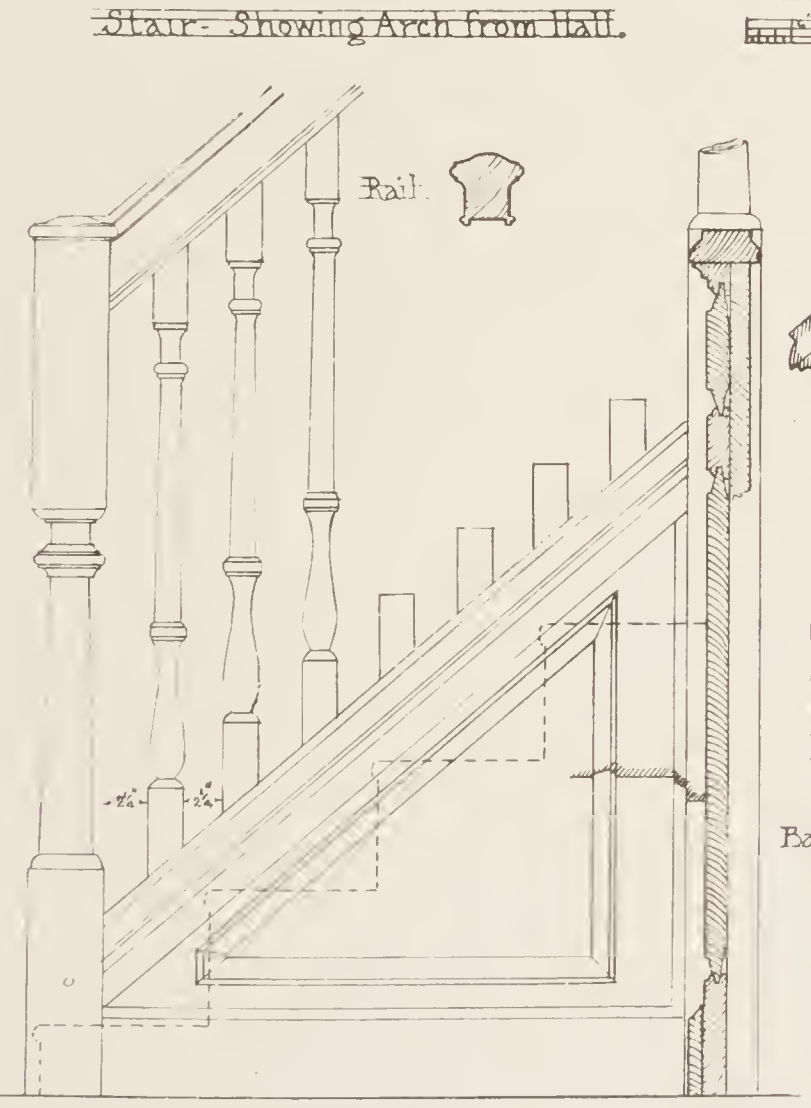
Plan of Basement Floor.
Scale

PLATE 1



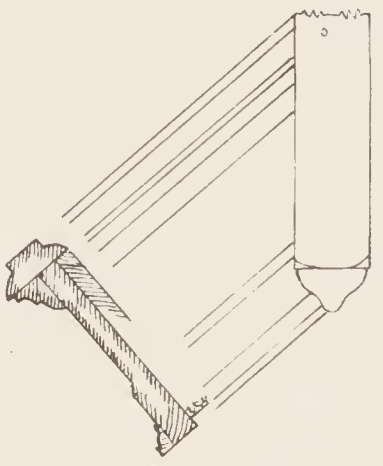
Stair - Showing Arch from Hall.

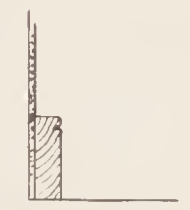
Section - Showing Stair and Arch.



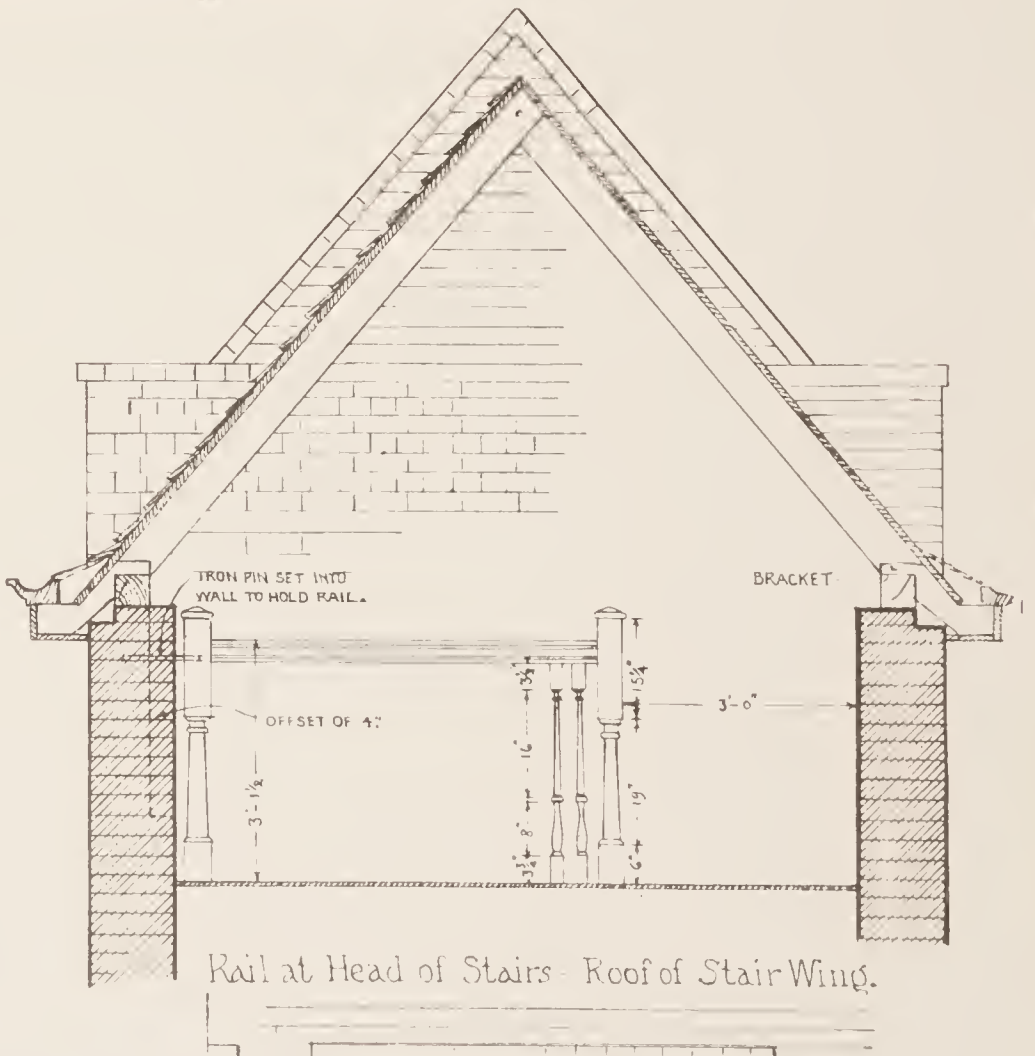
Detail of Stair.

Scale

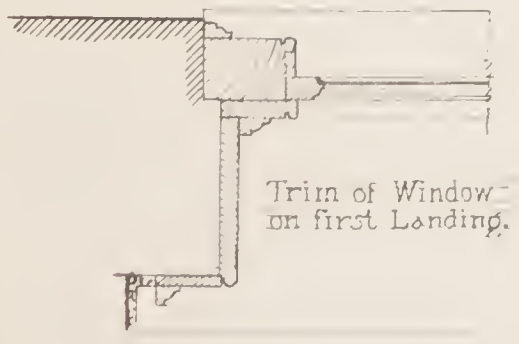




Baseboard on Stairs.

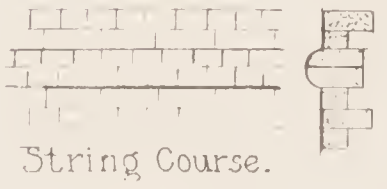


Rail at Head of Stairs - Roof of Stair Wing.



Trim of Window on first Landing.

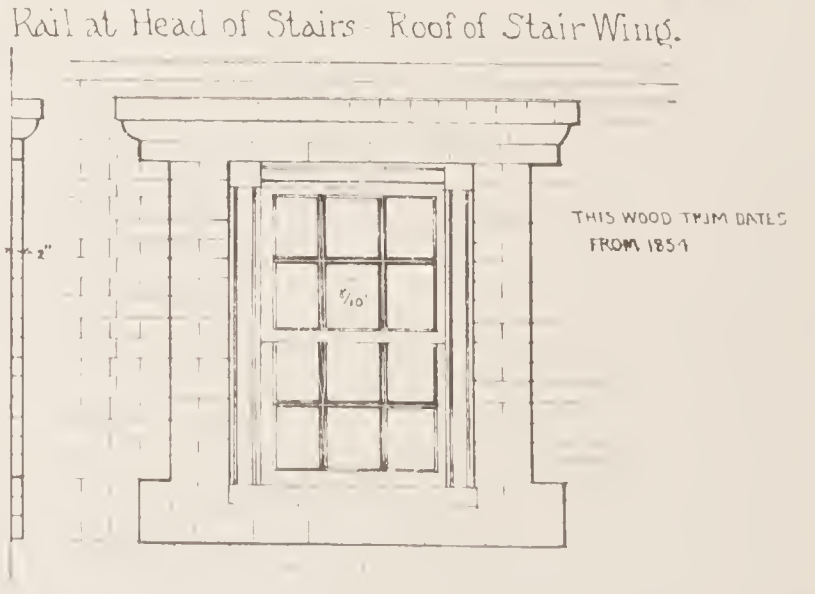
Trim of Windows on Staircase

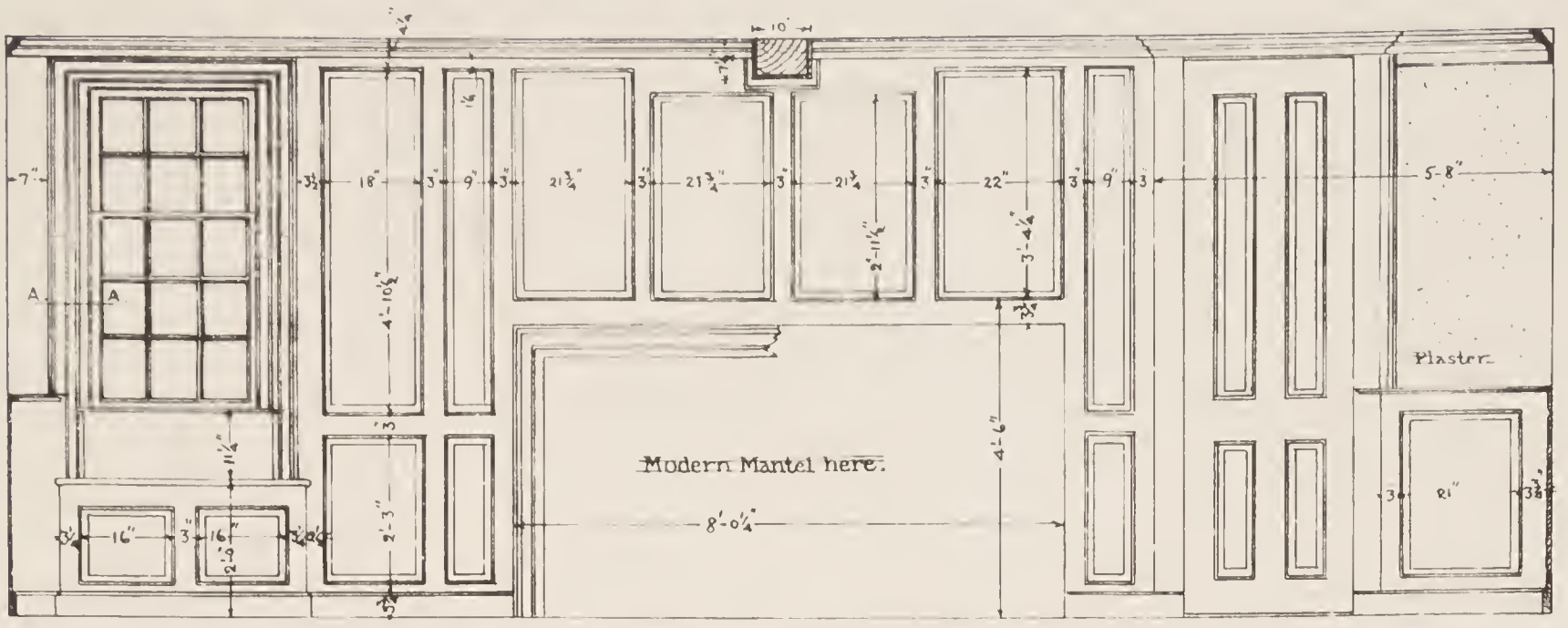


String Course.

Scale

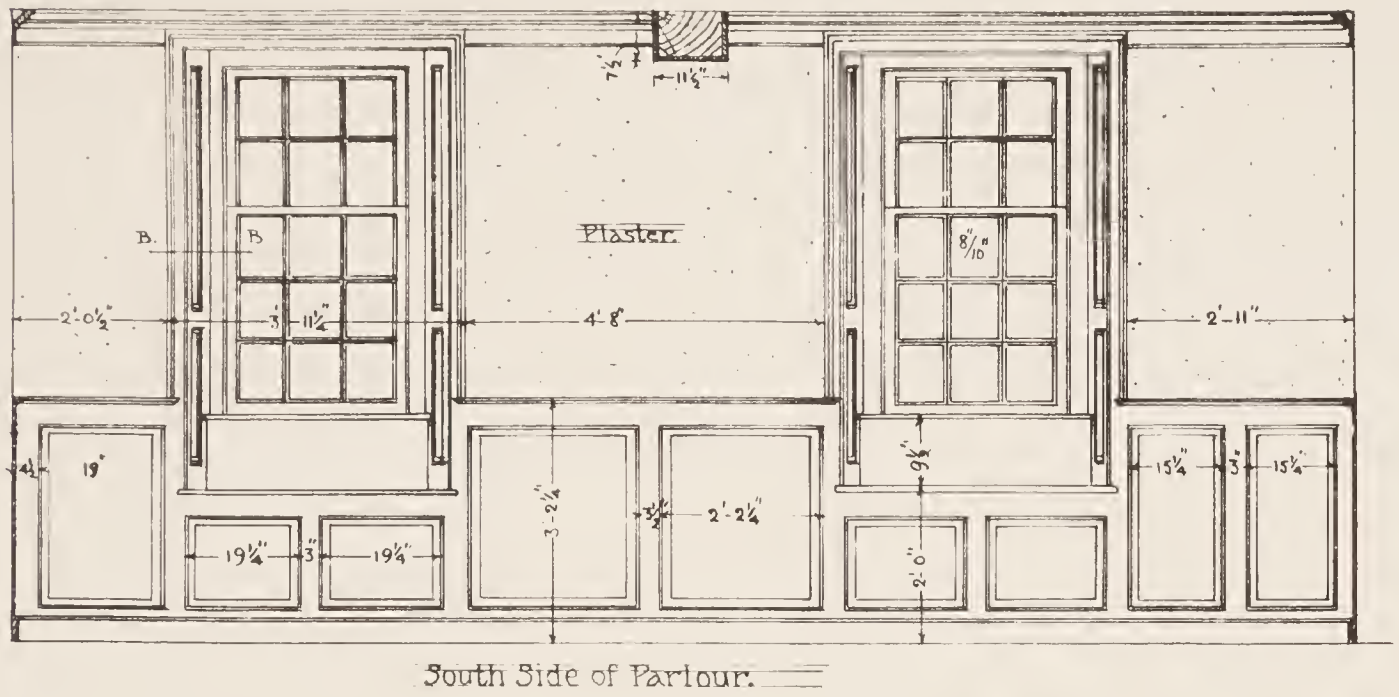
Brick Trim of Windows on South Front.



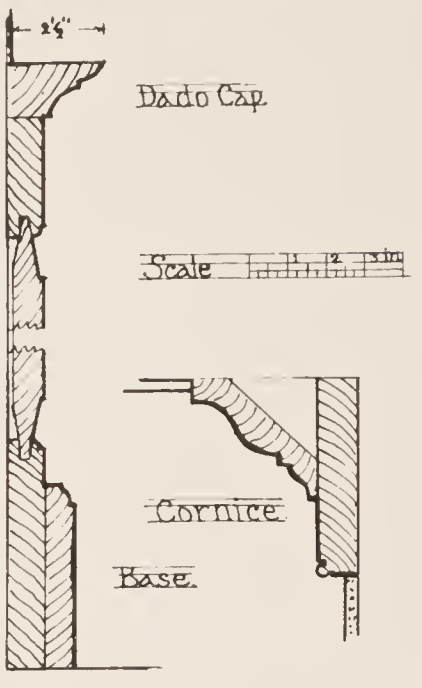


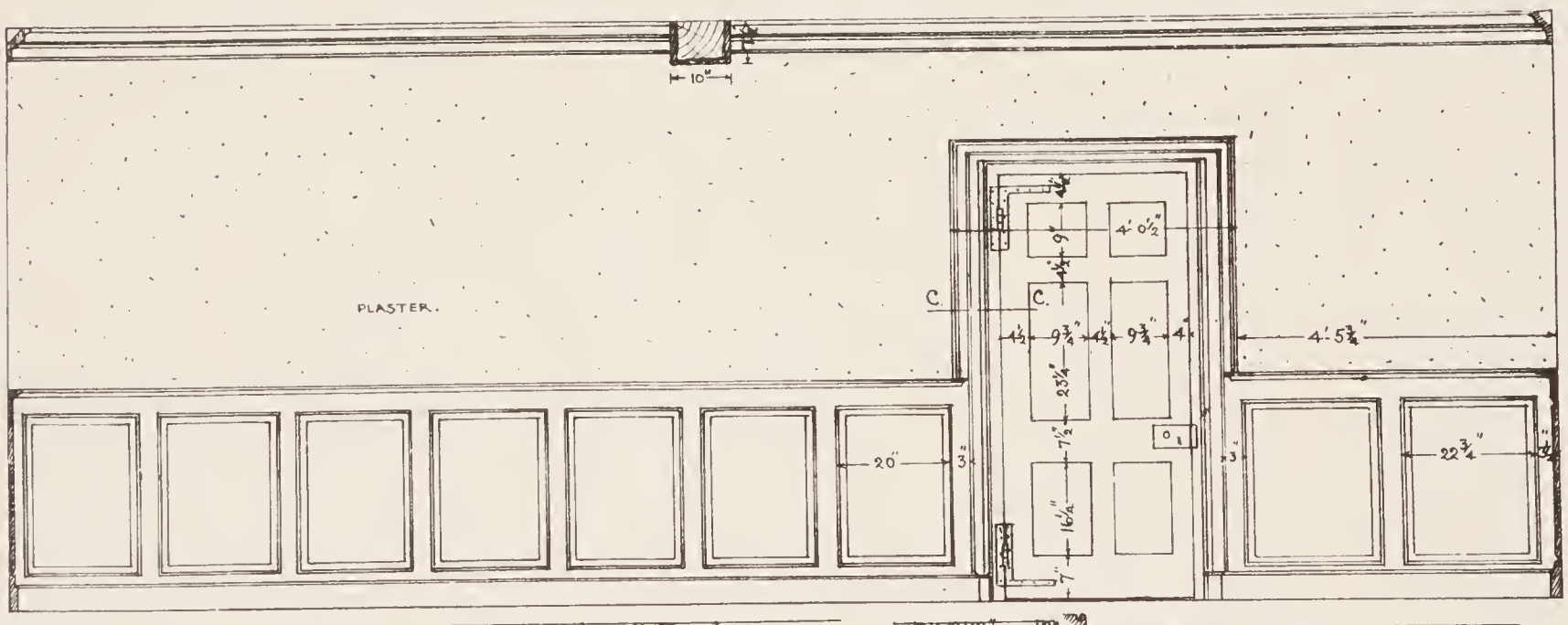
West Side of Parlour. Scale -

This Door cut into Closet after Panelling was put in.

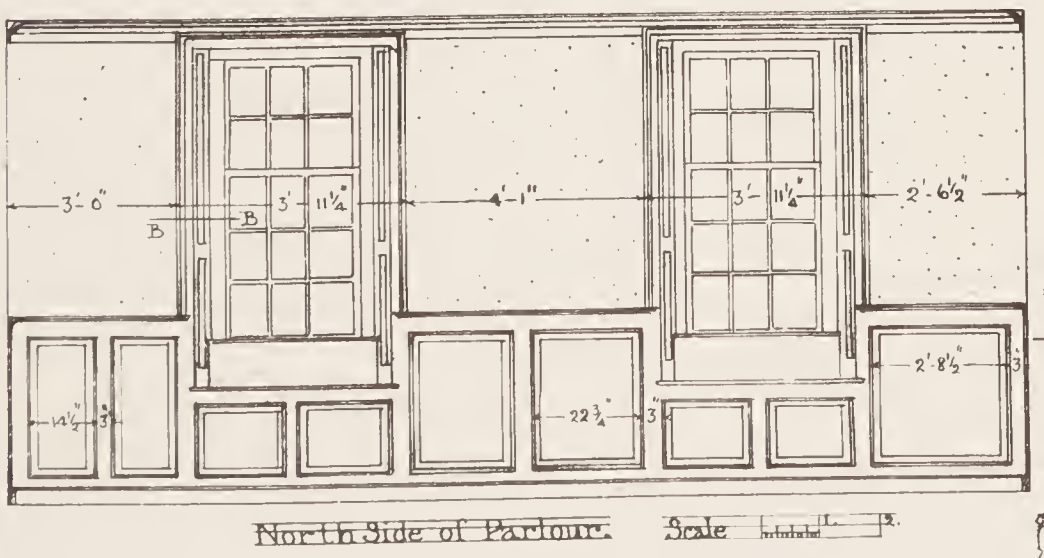


South Side of Parlour.

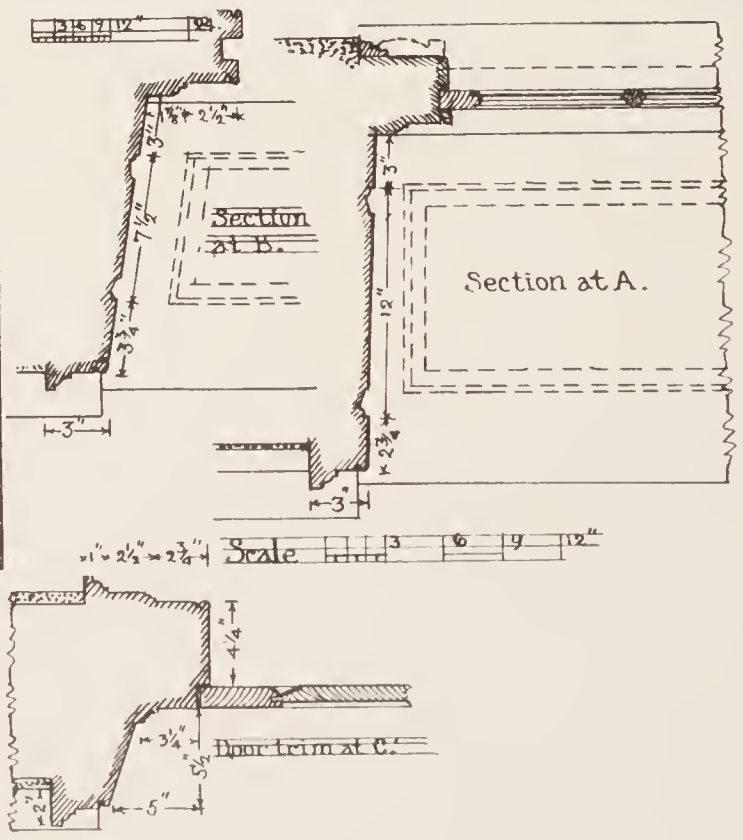


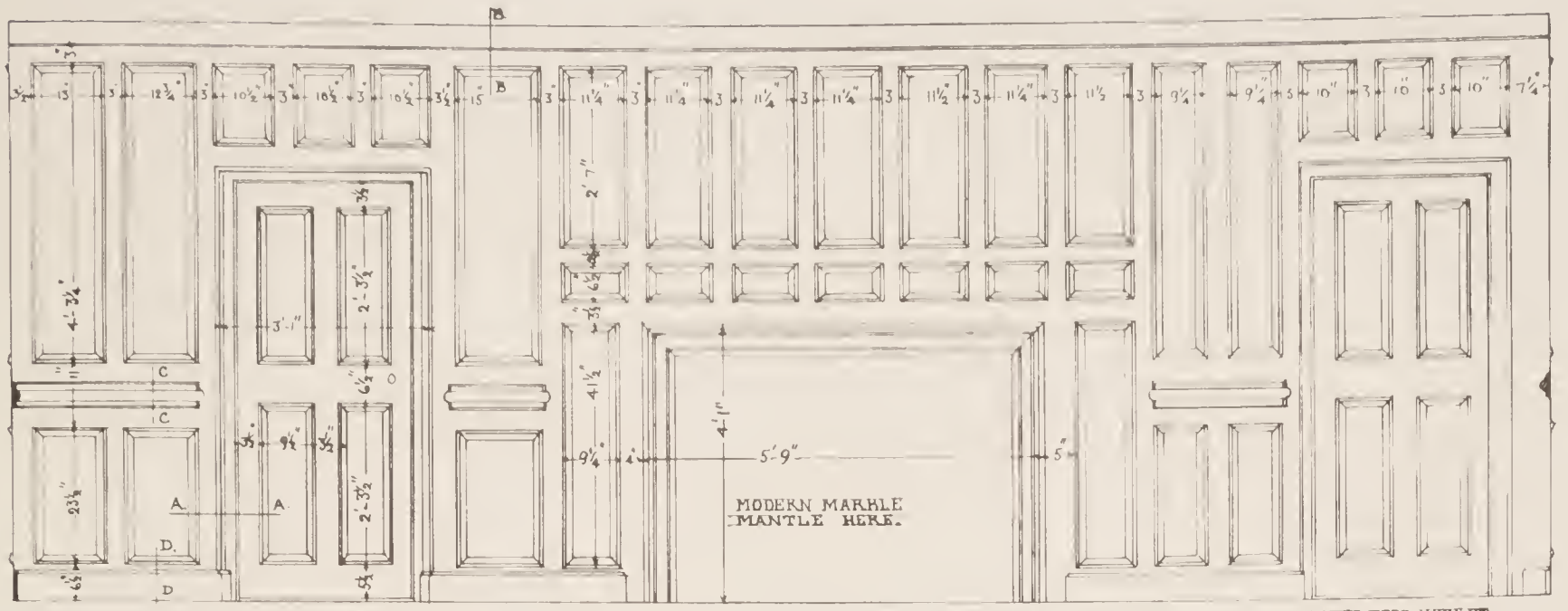


East Side of Parlour.

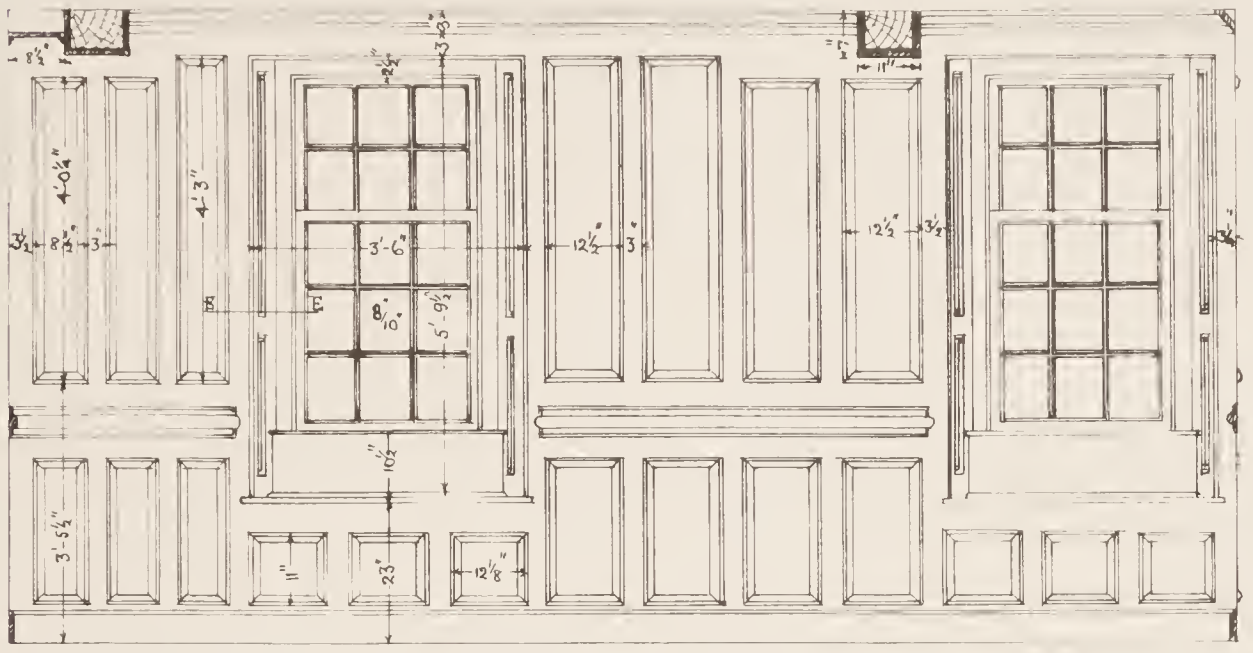


North Side of Parlour. Scale

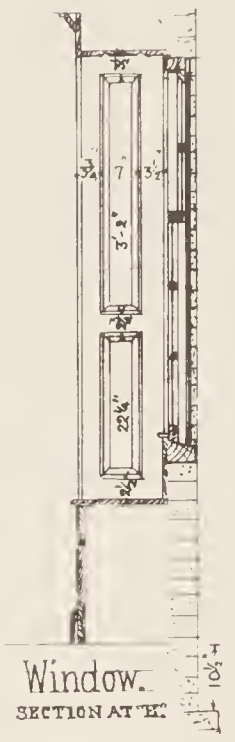




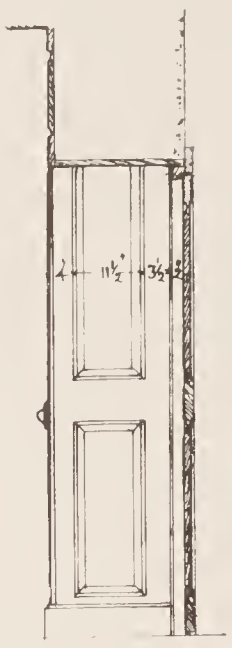
East Side of Dining Room - Panelling of about 1715.



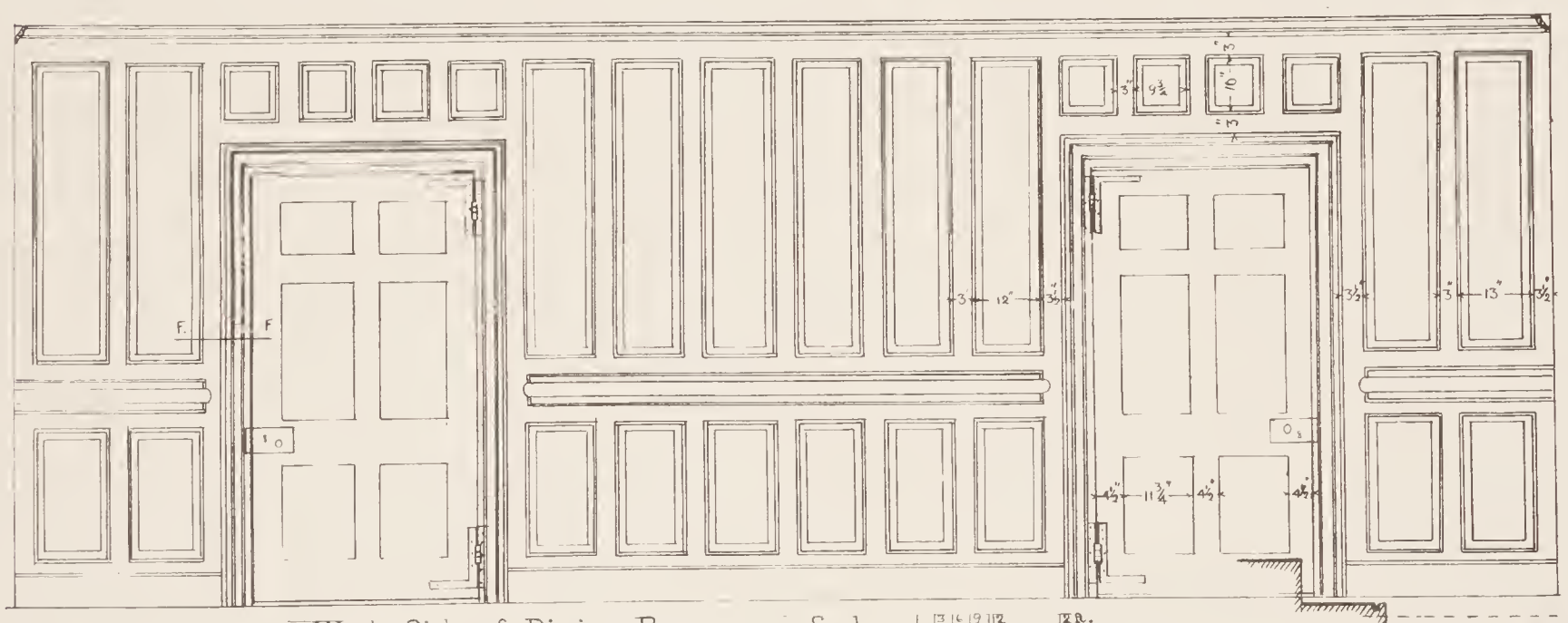
South Side of Dining Room. Scale- 1" 3" 6" 9" 12"



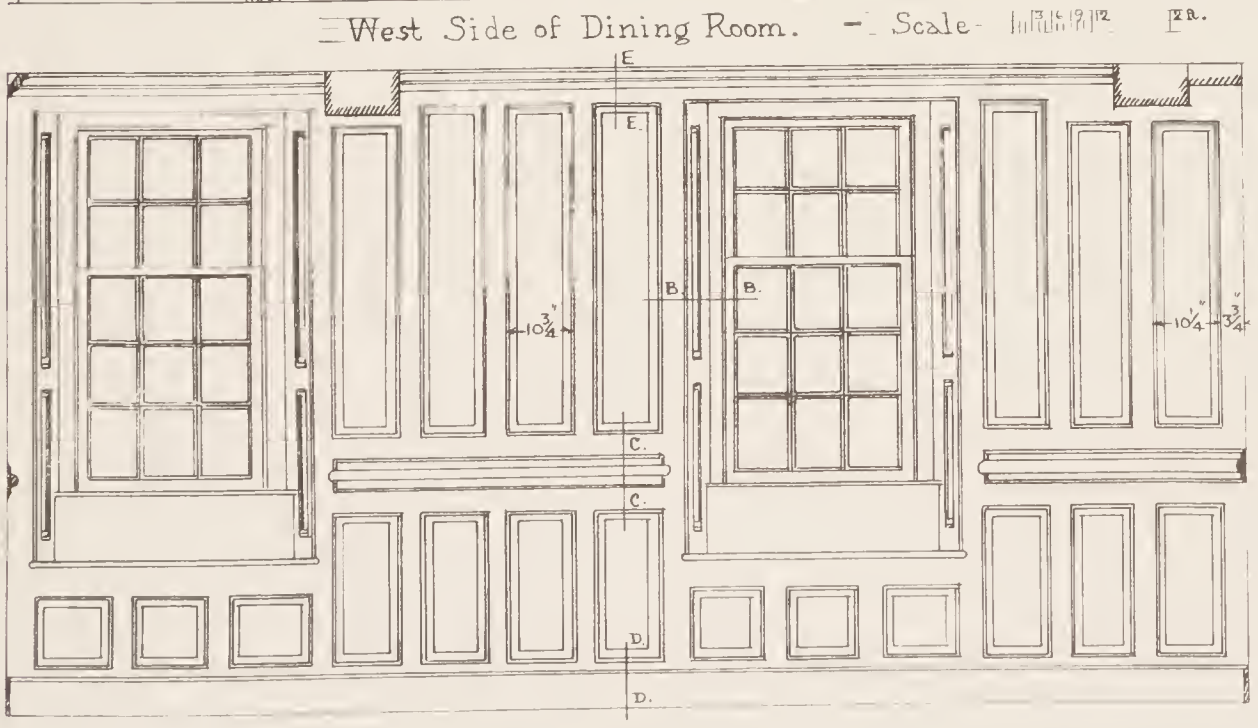
Window. SECTION AT "E."



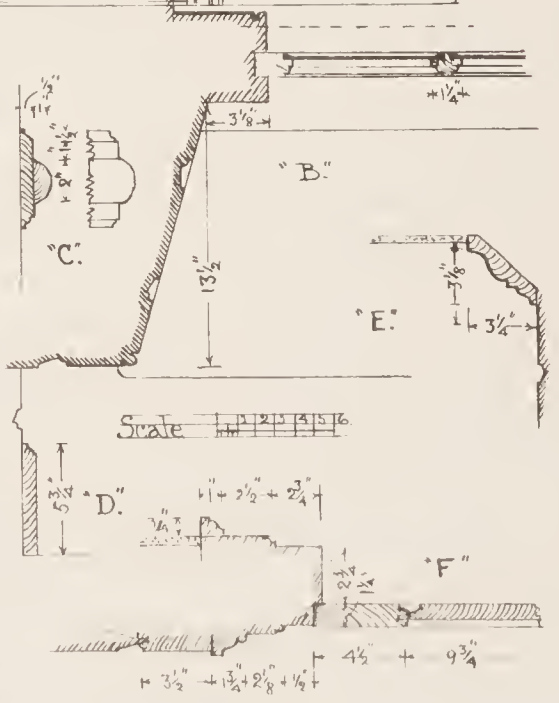
Door to Closet. SECTION AT "A."



West Side of Dining Room. Scale- 1" 3" 6" 9" 12" 24"



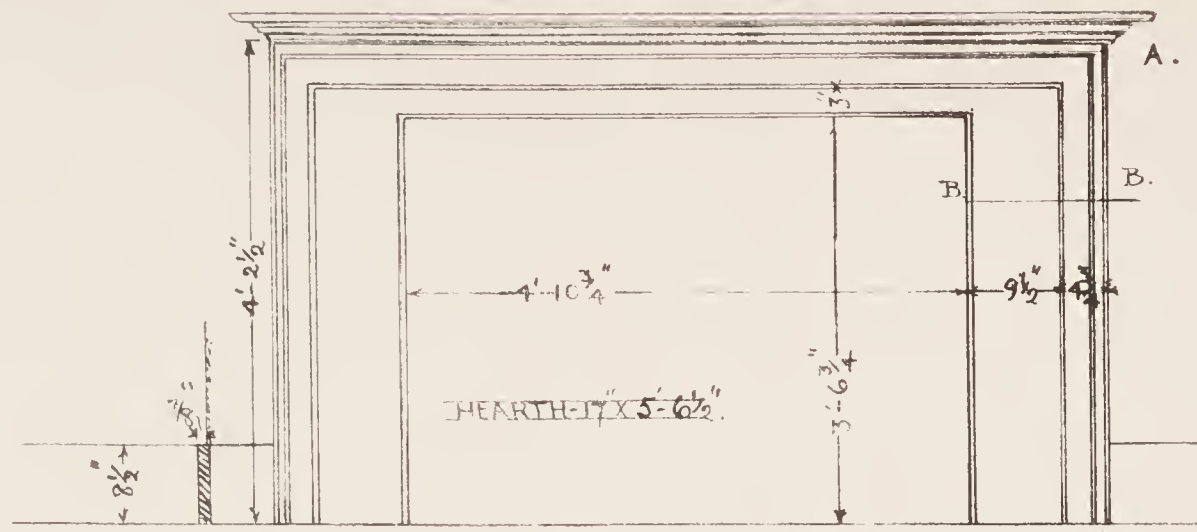
North Side of Dining Room.



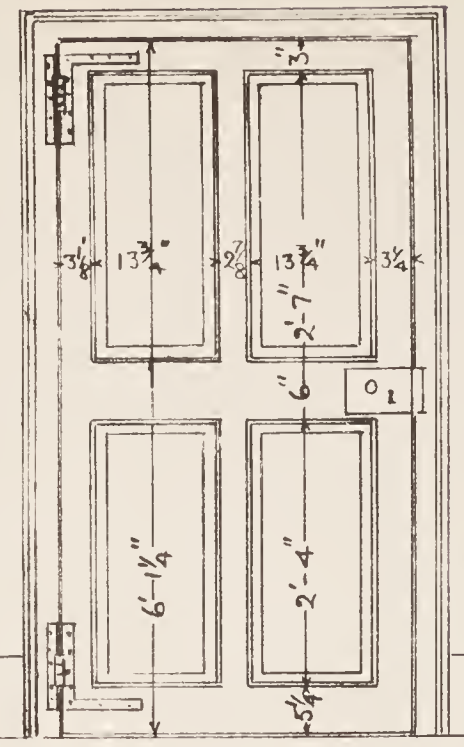
Sections.

NO CORNICE IN HALLS AND CHAMBERS.

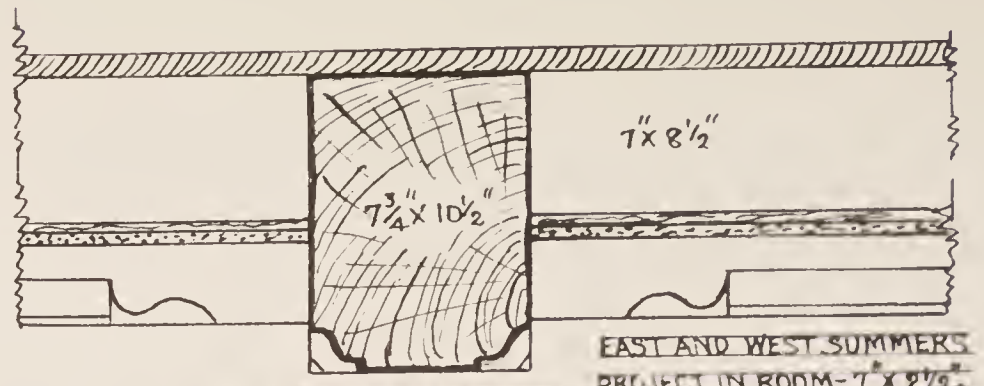
SHELF IS 7¾" WIDE.



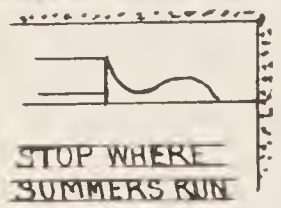
Mantel in East Chamber.

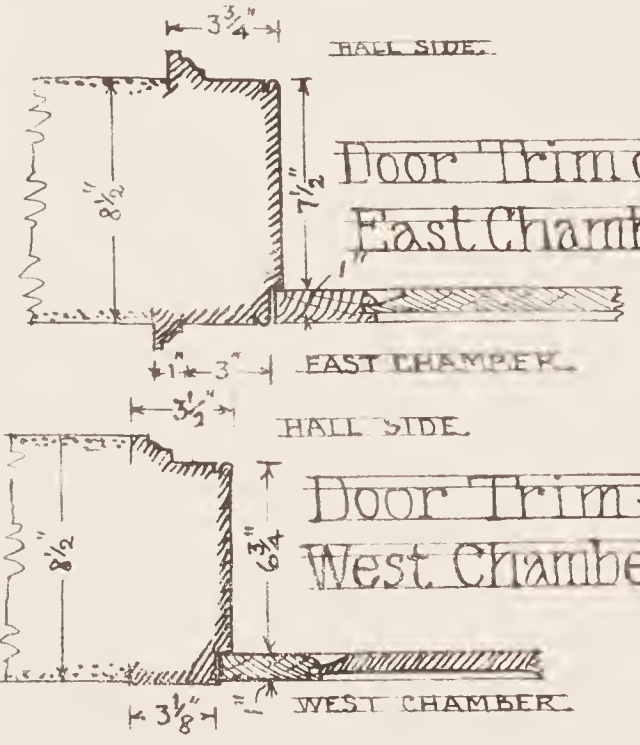


Doors in Hall.



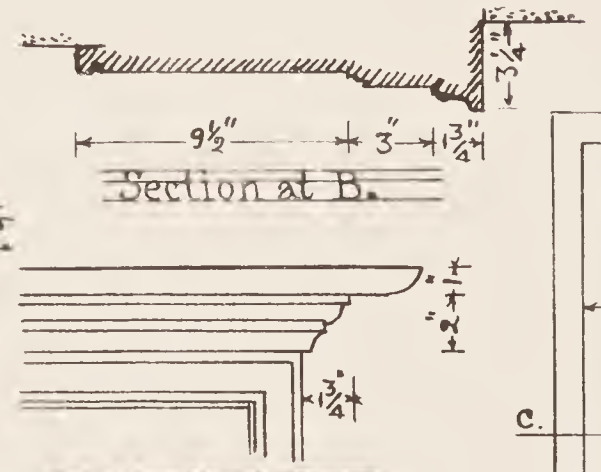
Stops and Chamfers of Summers.

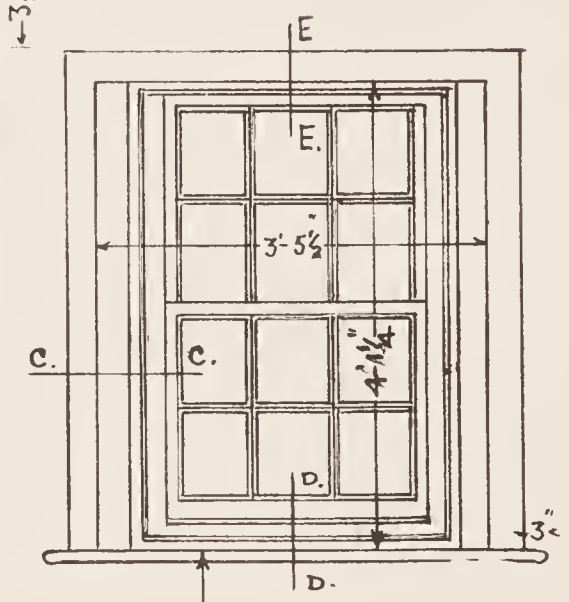




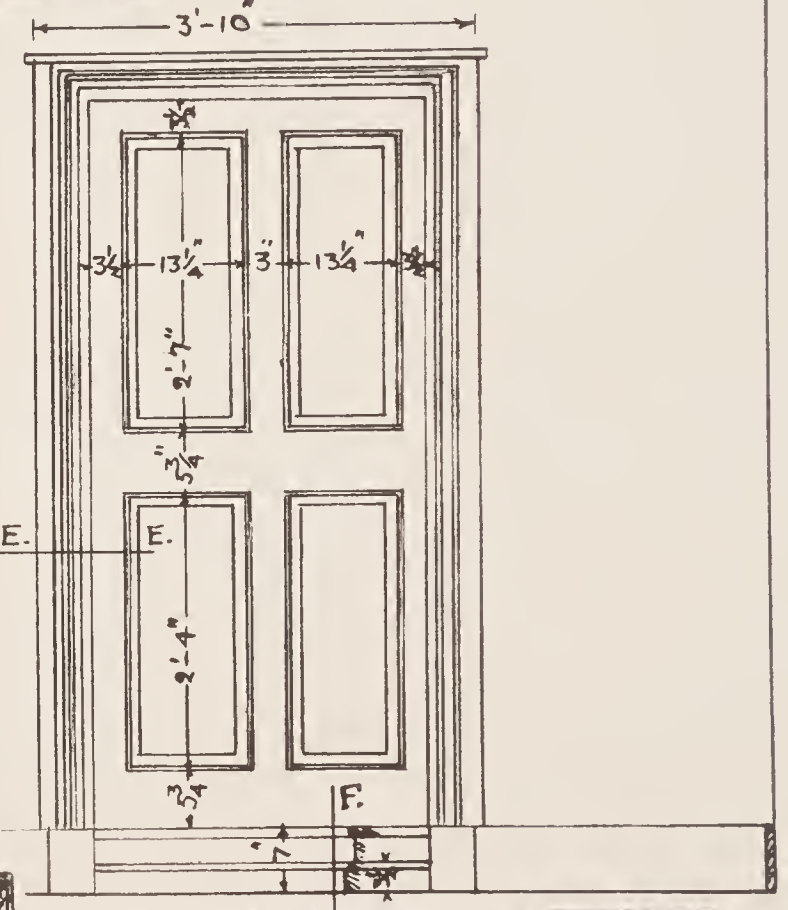
Door Trim of East Chamber.

Door Trim - West Chamber.





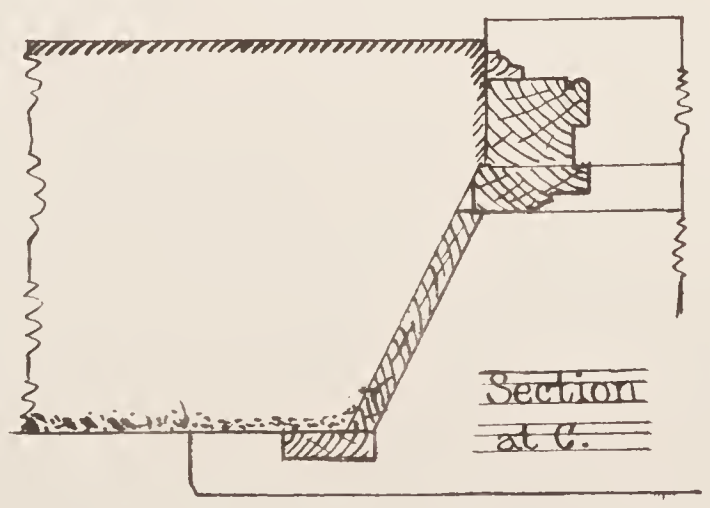
Windows in Chambers.



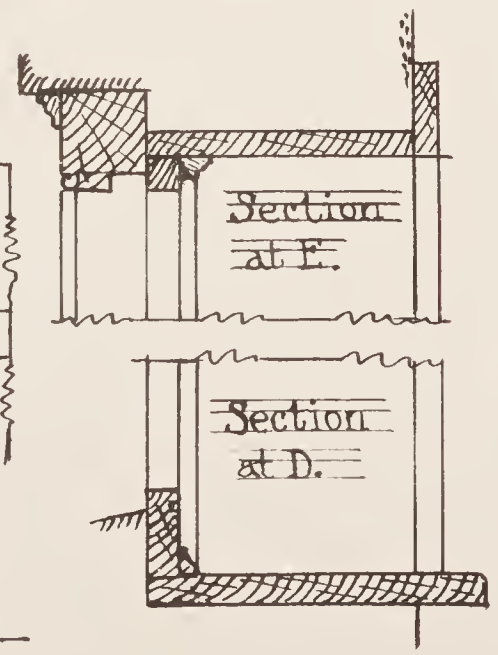
Door from Stairs to Upper Hall.

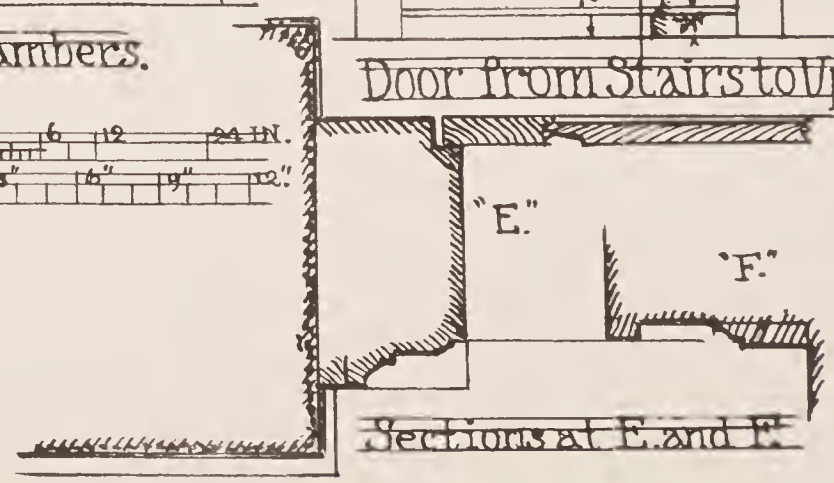
Scale for Elevations - 6 12 24 IN.

Scale for Details - 3" 6" 9" 12".

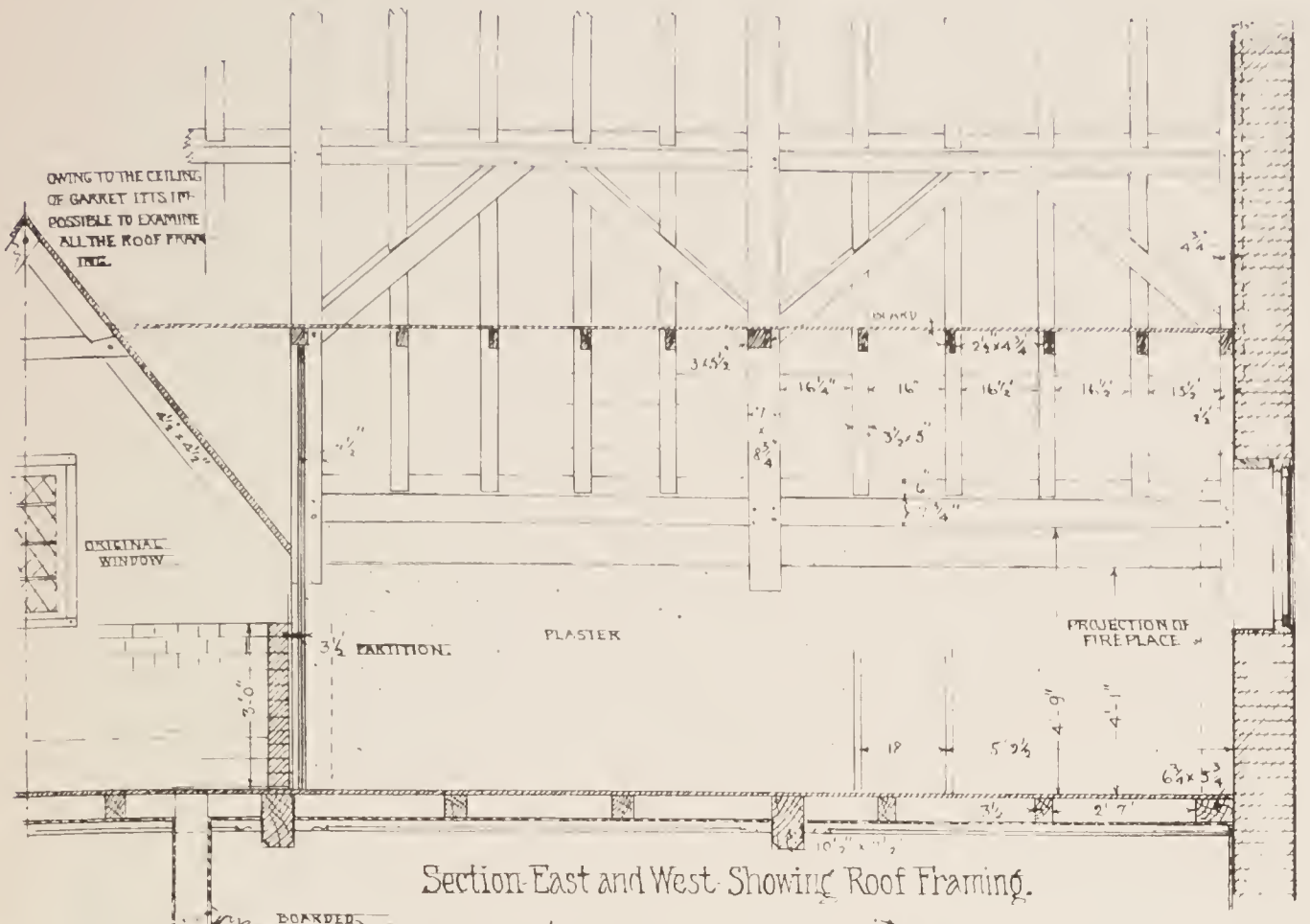


Section at C.

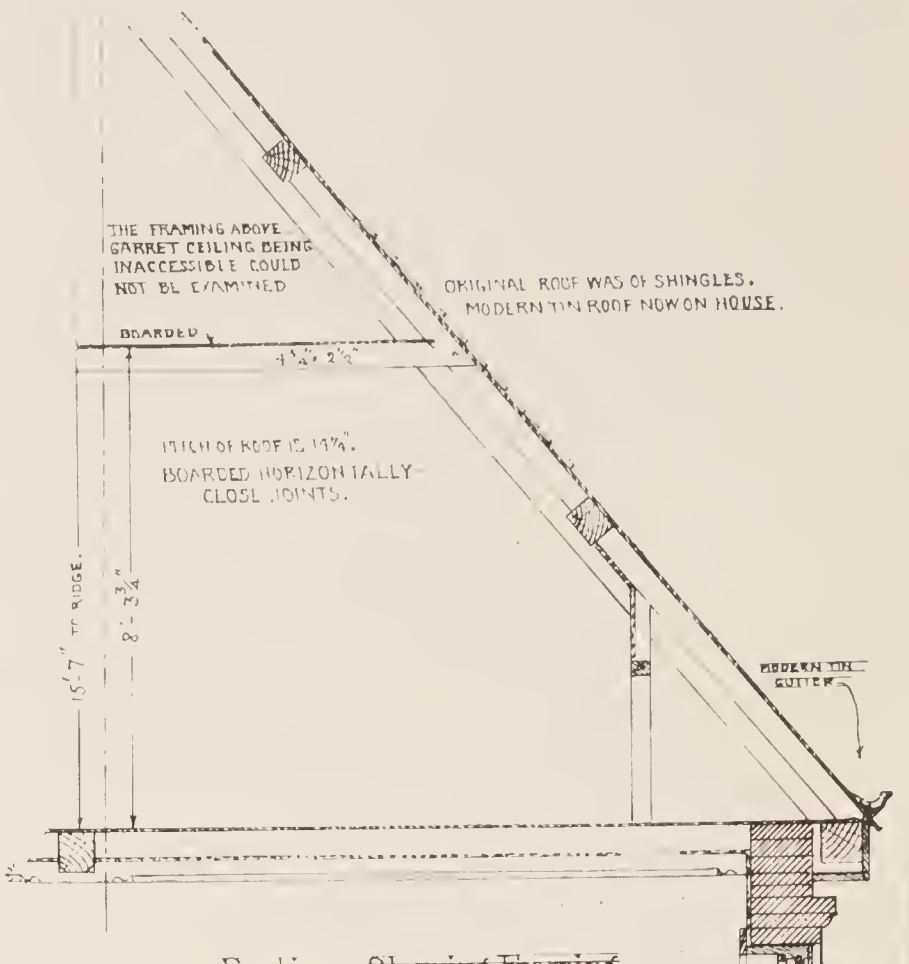




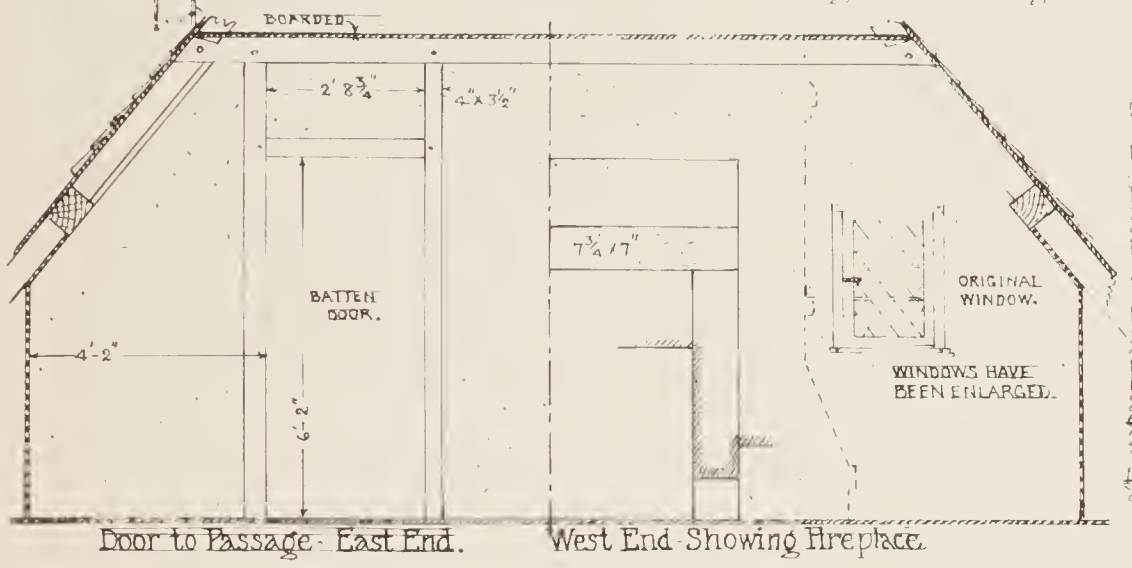
Sections at E. and F.



Section East and West Showing Roof Framing.

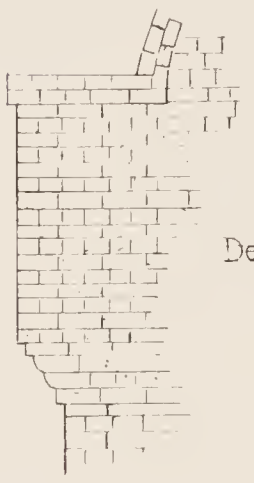

THE FRAMING ABOVE GARRET CEILING BEING INACCESSIBLE COULD NOT BE EXAMINED
ORIGINAL ROOF WAS OF SHINGLES. MODERN TIN ROOF NOW ON HOUSE.
BOARDED
PITCH OF ROOF IS 14°.
BOARDED HORIZONTALLY CLOSE JOINTS.
15'-7" TO RIDGE.
8'-2¾"
MODERN TIN GUTTER

Section Showing Framing.

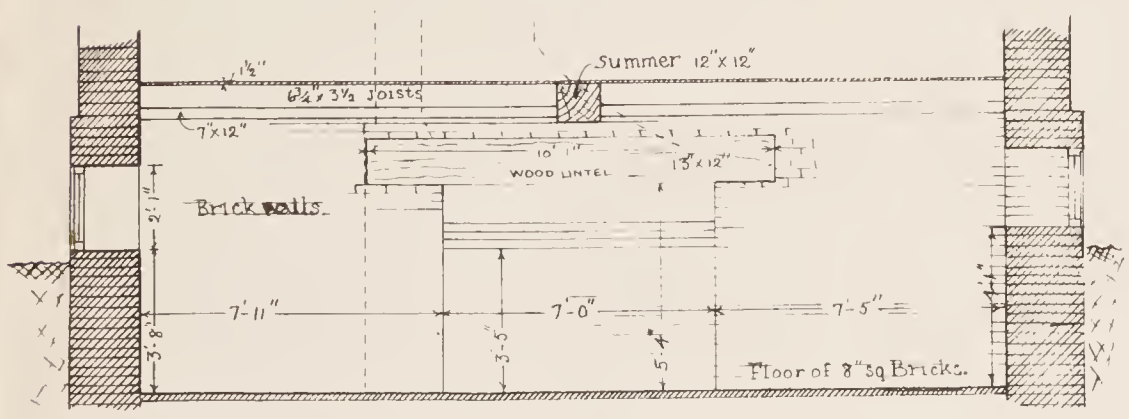


Door to Passage - East End. West End Showing Fireplace.

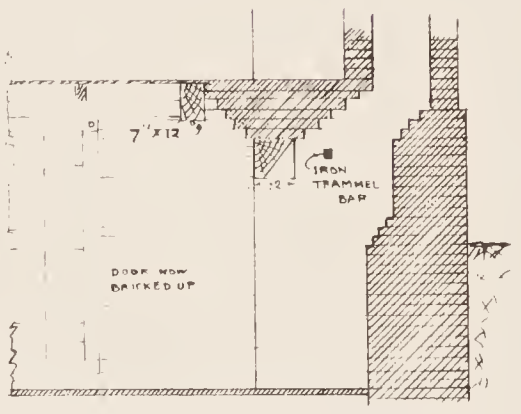
Scale - 1 2 3 4 5



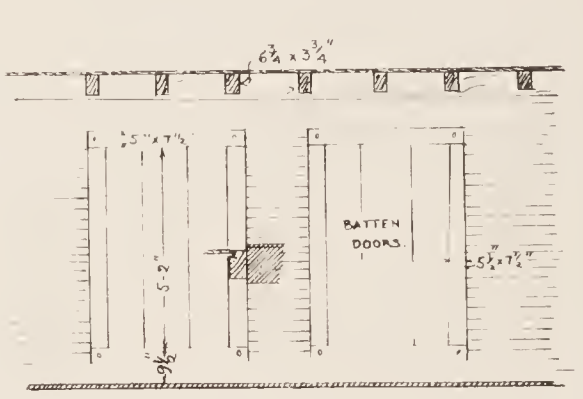
Detail of Gables.



Kitchen Fireplace.

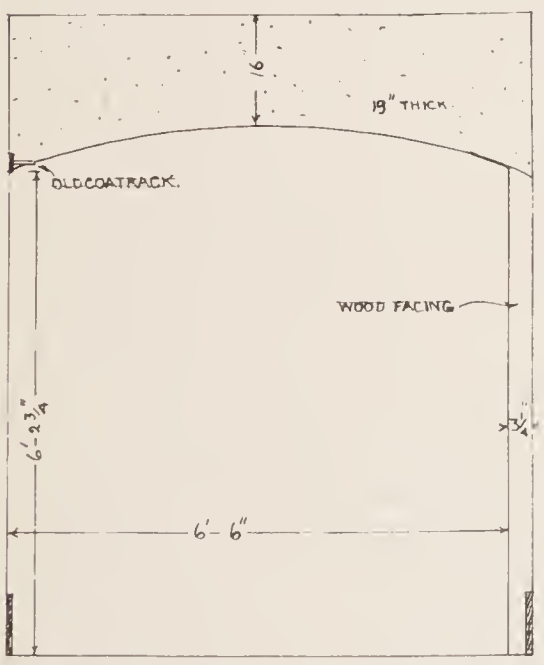


Section of Kitchen Fireplace.



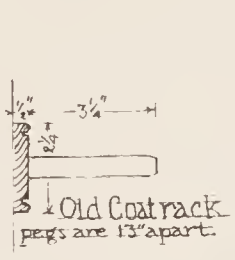
Doors to Cellars.

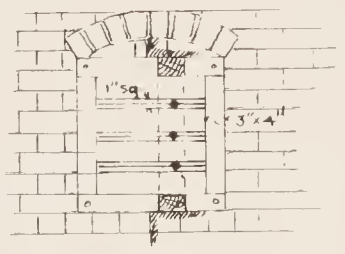
Scale - 1 2 3.



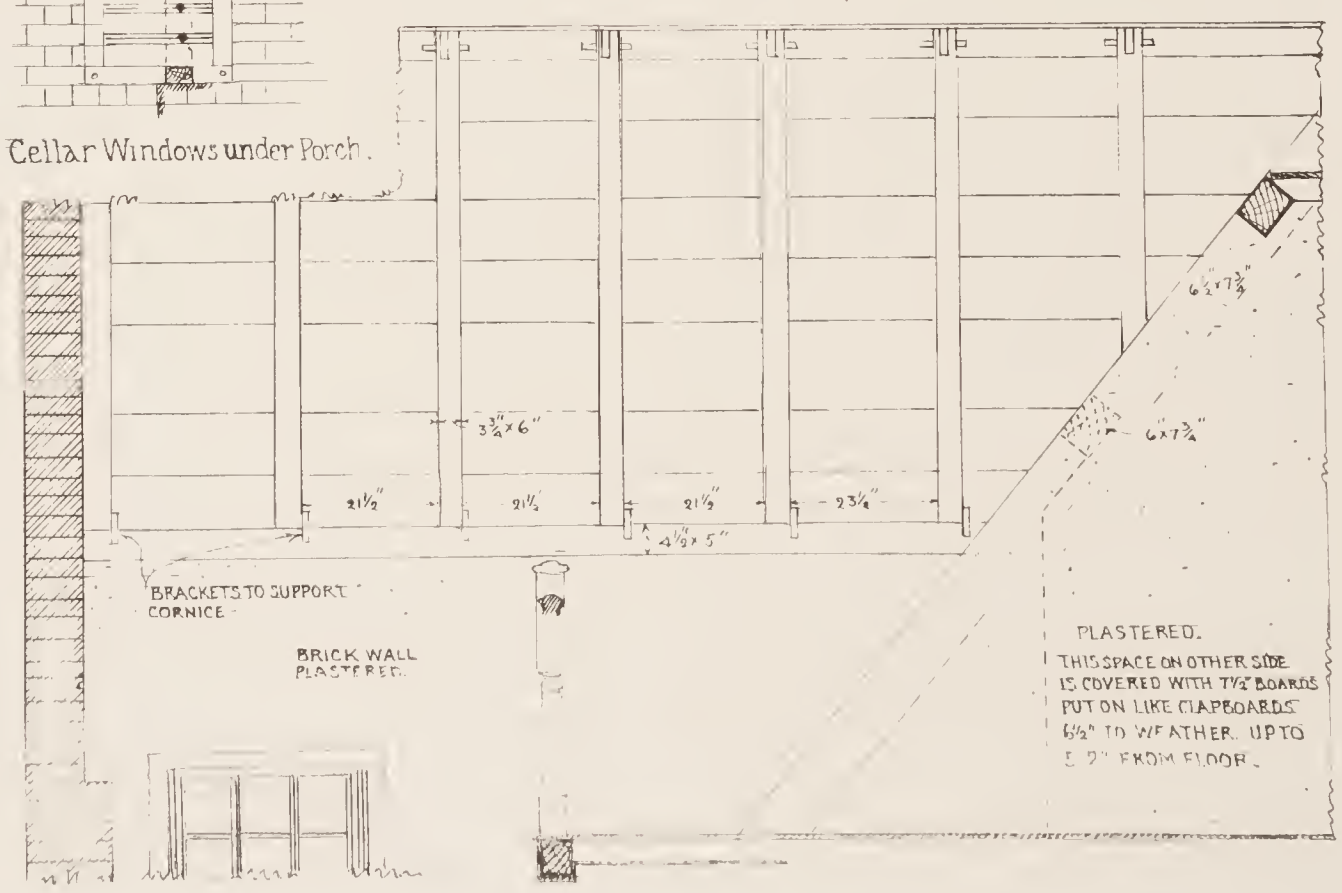
Arch - Entrance Hall to Stair Tower.

Scale - 1 2 3





Cellar Windows under Porch.

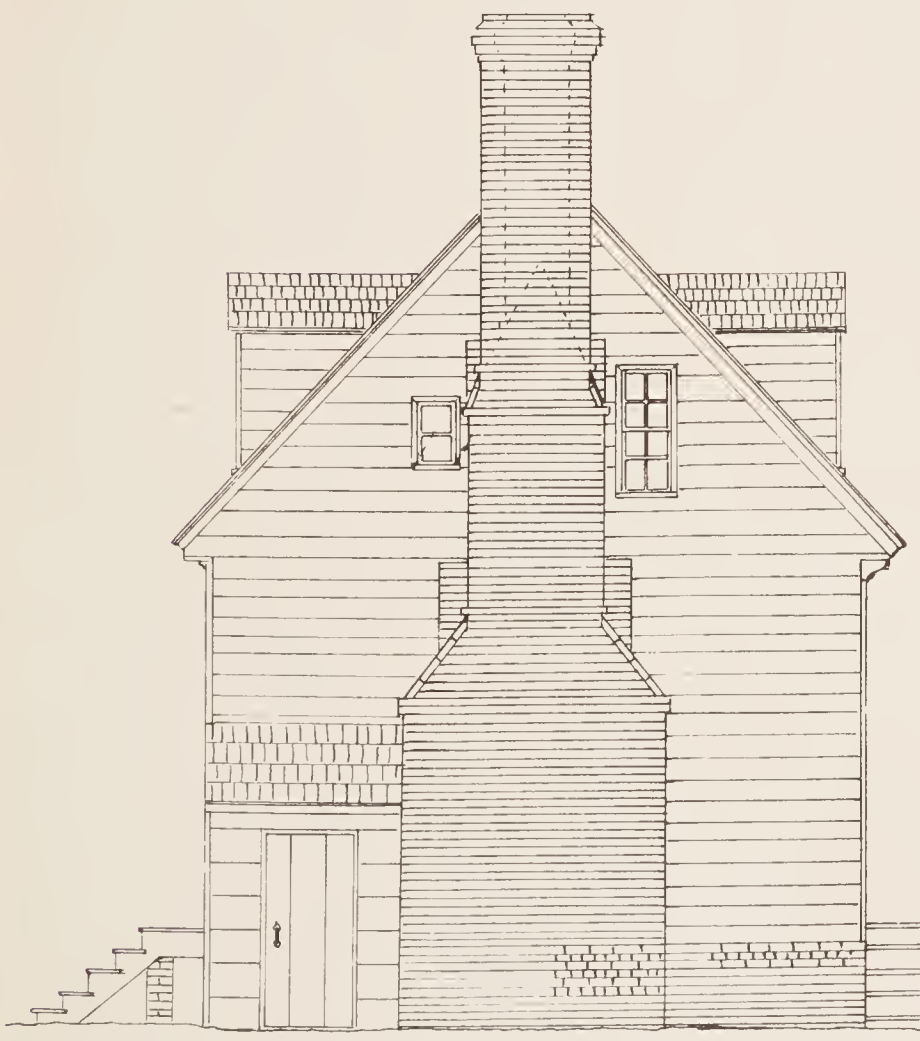


Roof over Staircase.

STEPS NOW REMOVED.

NORTH OR STREET ELEVATION.

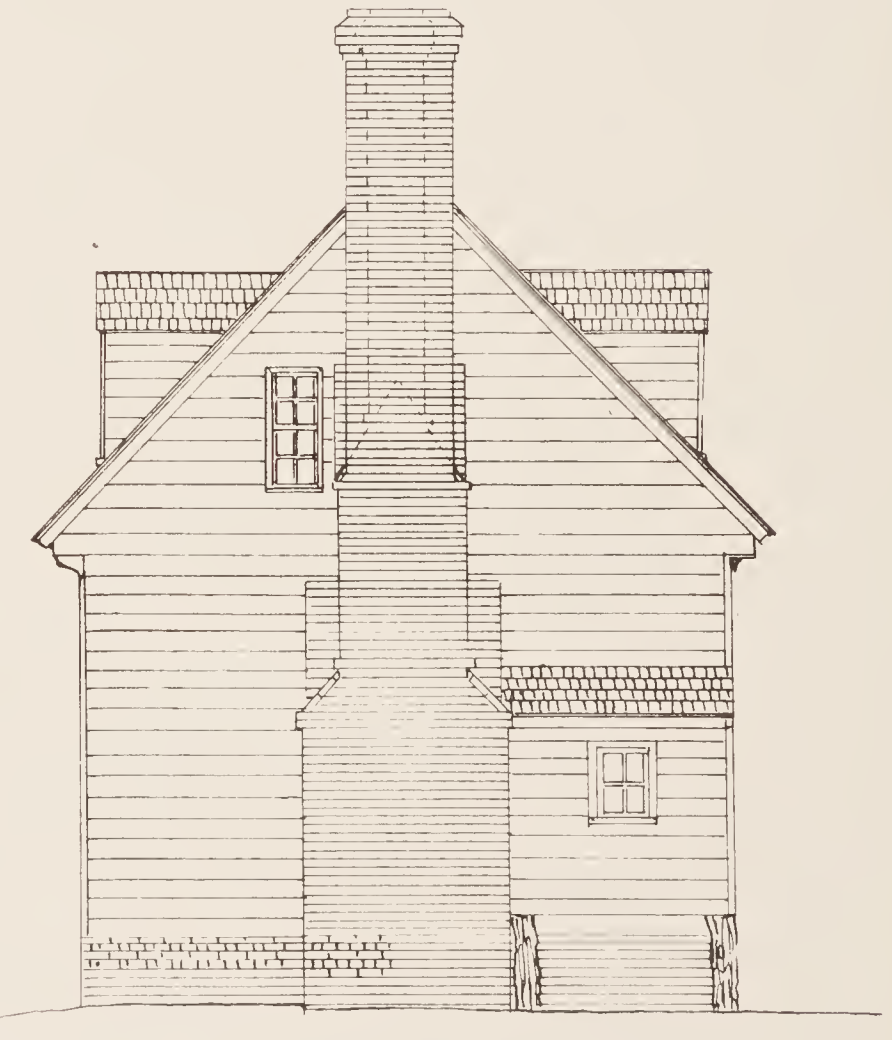
SCALE -



ENTRANCE TO KITCHEN.

EAST END.

NOTE WINDOWS IN GABLES DATE FROM AROUND 1800.



WEST END.

SCALE -

BUILT ABOUT 1745 OR EARLIER.

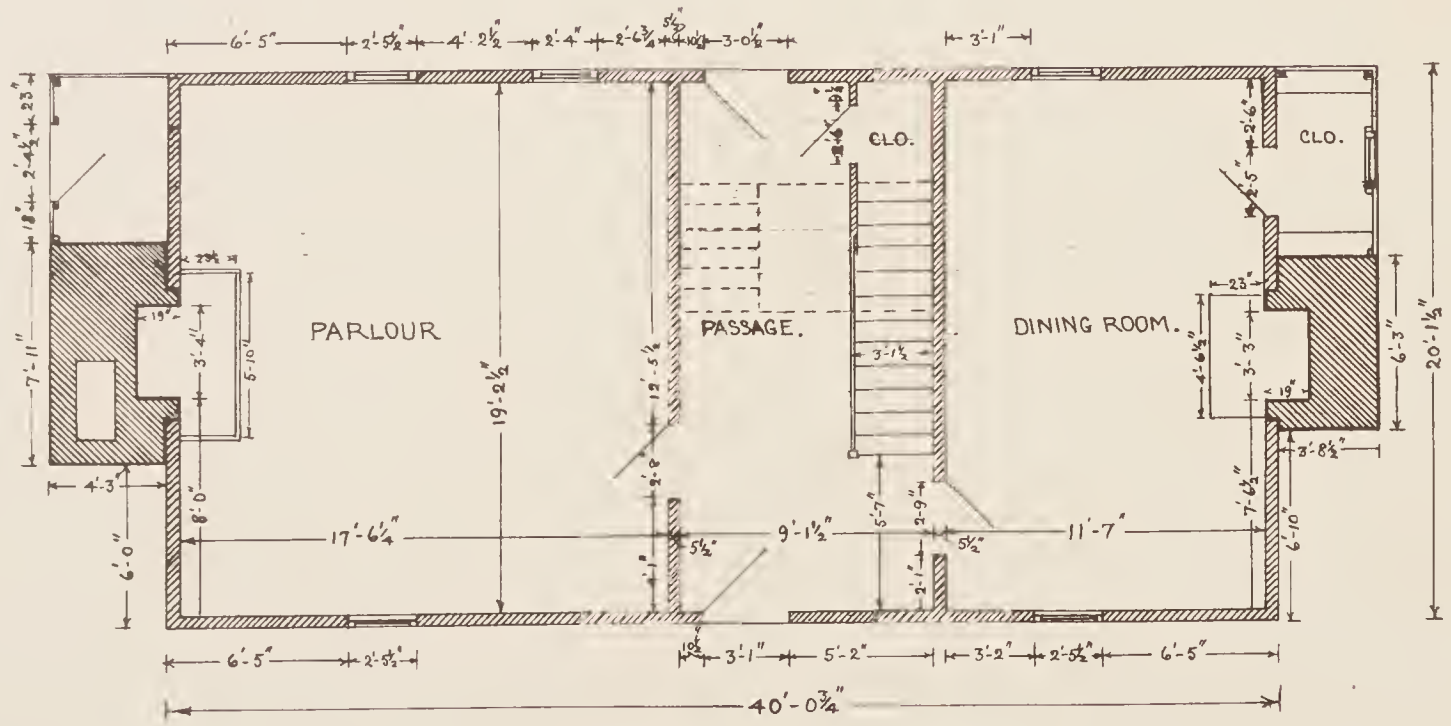
HOUSE ON FRANCIS AND SOUTH QUEEN STREETS,
WILLIAMSBURG, VIRGINIA.

NORTH OR STREET ELEVATION, ABOUT 1820.

SCALE -

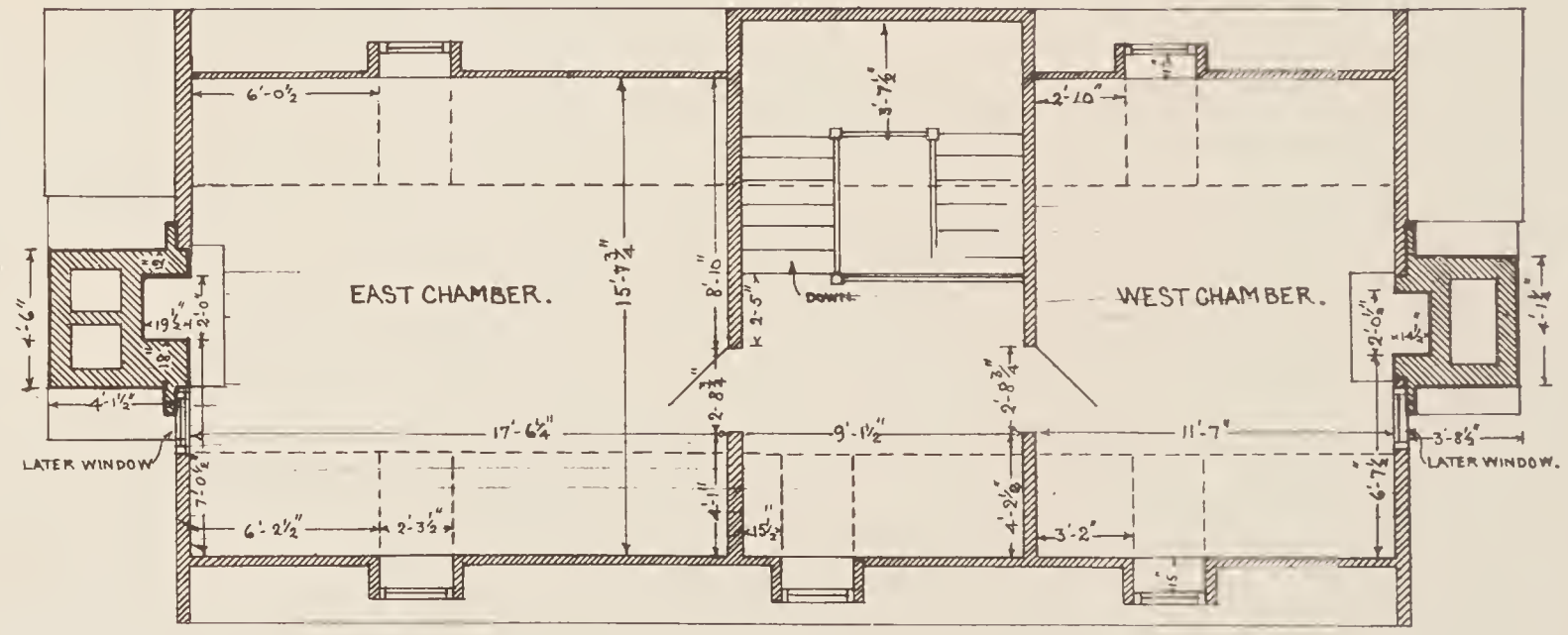
SOUTH OR REAR ELEVATION.

SCALE -



PLAN OF FIRST FLOOR.

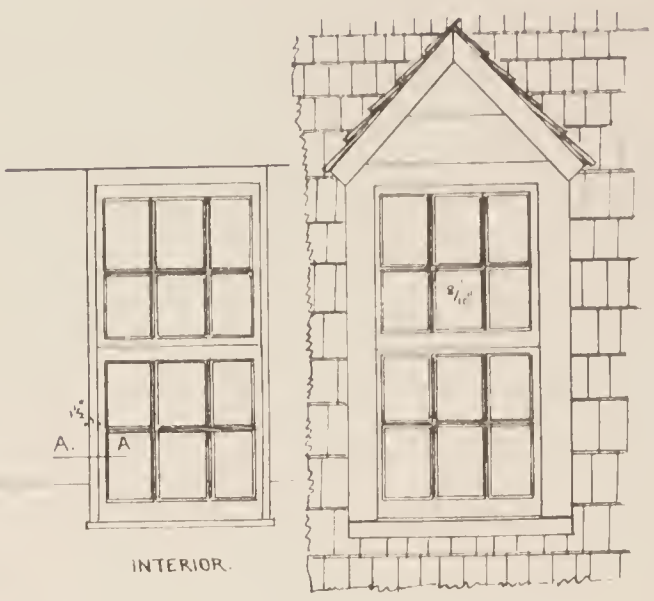
SCALE -

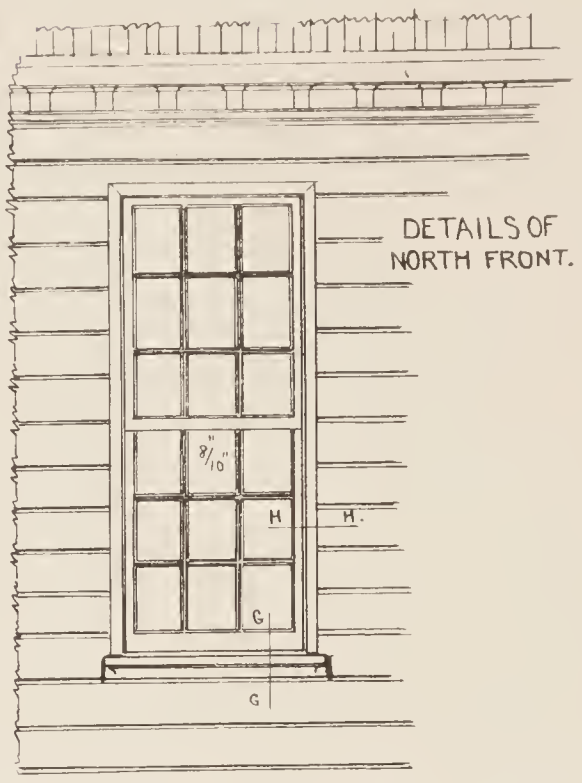


PLAN OF SECOND FLOOR.

SCALE -

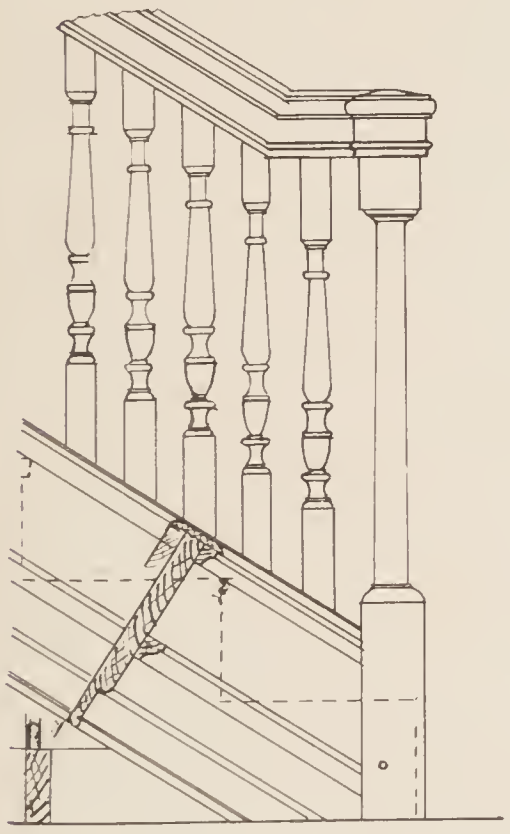
PLATE 11



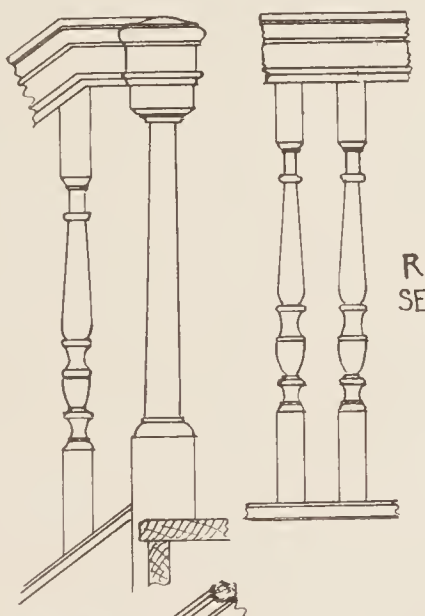


SECTION THROUGH PASSAGE.

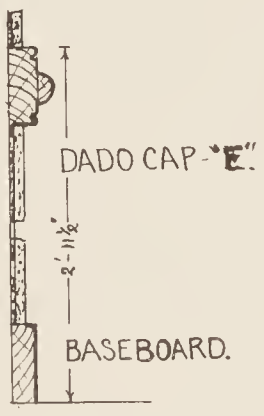
SCALE - 1. 2. 3



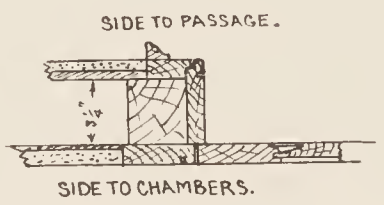
NEWEL AT FOOT OF STAIR.



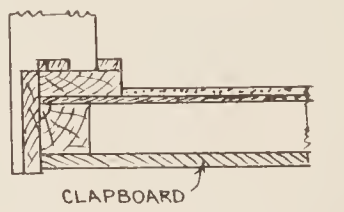
RAIL ON SECOND FLOOR.



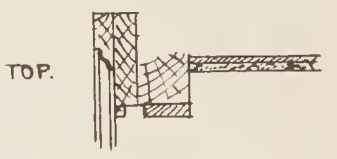
SECTION AT "F".



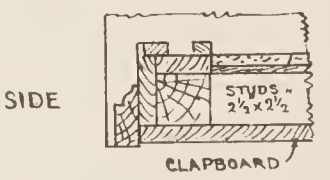
DOOR TRIM OF UPPER ROOMS - "B".

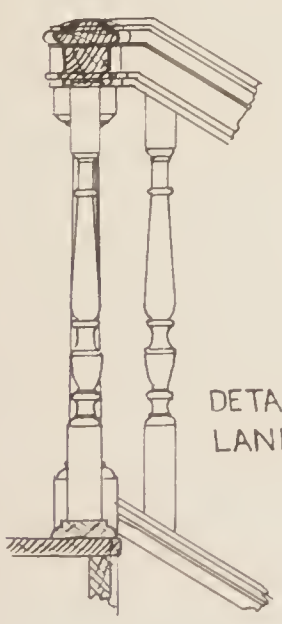


SECTION OF FRONT DORMERS AT "A".

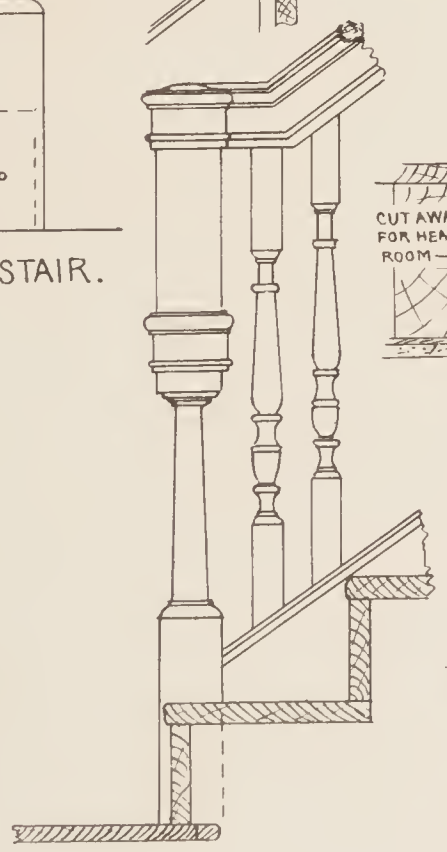


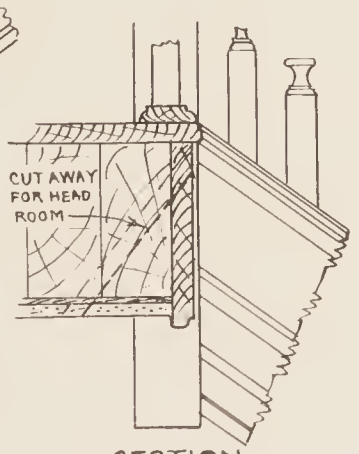
SECTION OF REAR DORMERS.



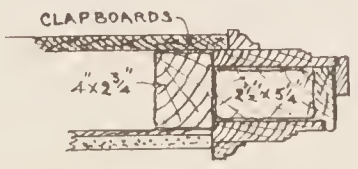


DETAIL ON LANDING.



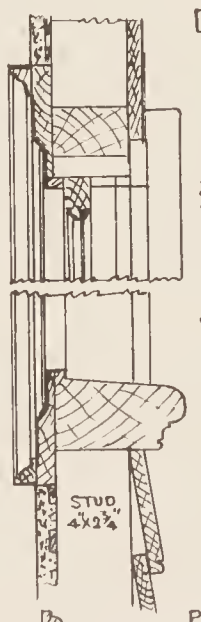


SECTION OF LANDING.

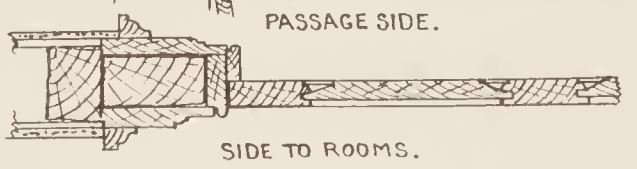


TRIM OF OUTSIDE DOORS.

WINDOW FRAME "H".



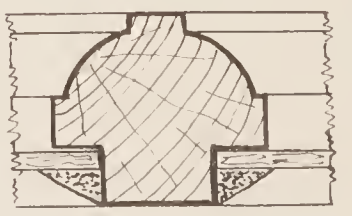
WINDOW STOOL - "G".



PASSAGE SIDE.

SIDE TO ROOMS.

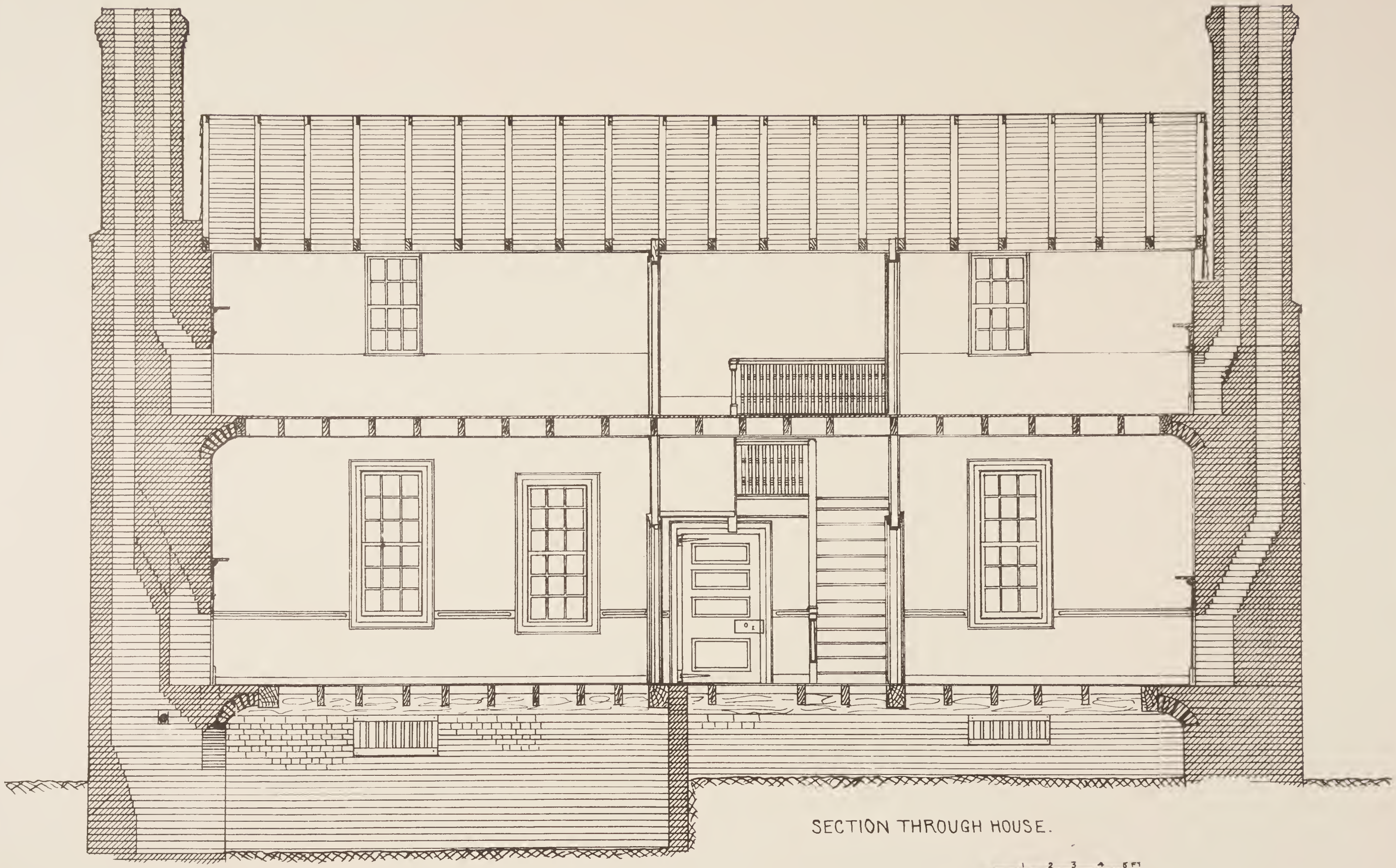
DOOR TRIM OF LOWER ROOMS - "C".



F.S. MUNTIN.

MUNTINS IN OTHER REAR WINDOW IN PARLOUR - 1" THICK.

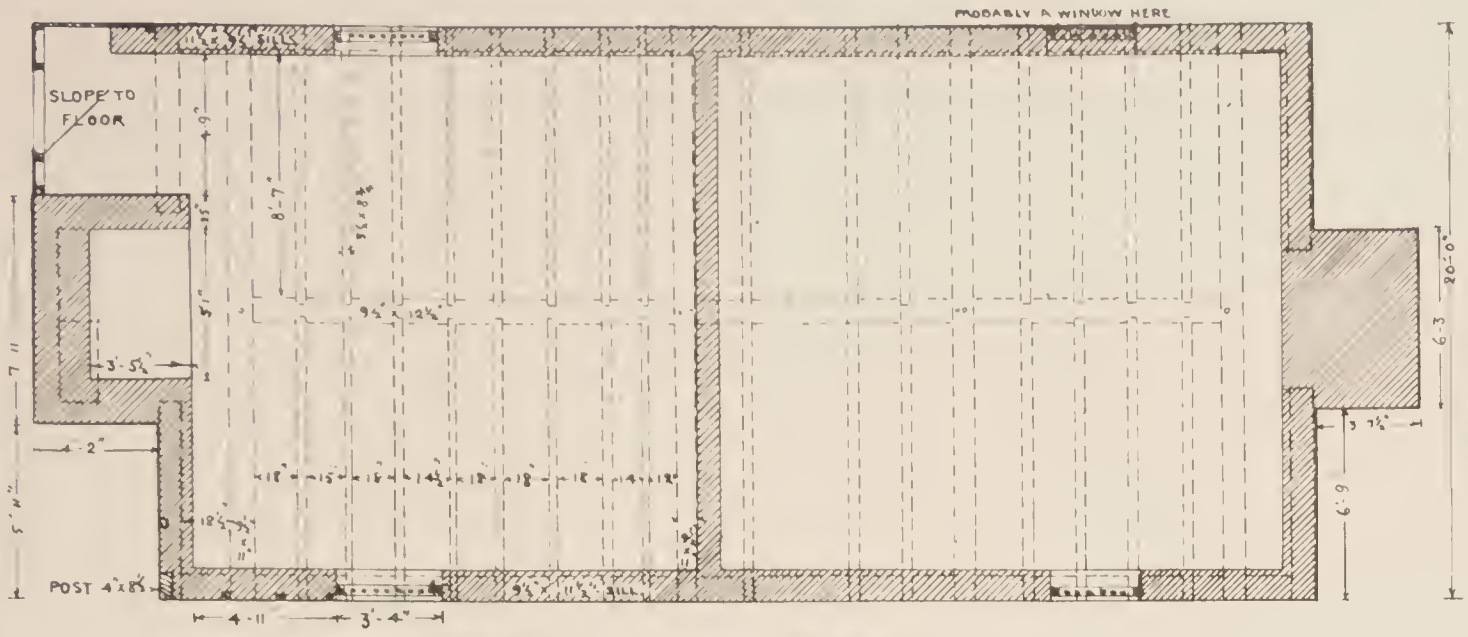
SCALE - 0 3 6 9 12.



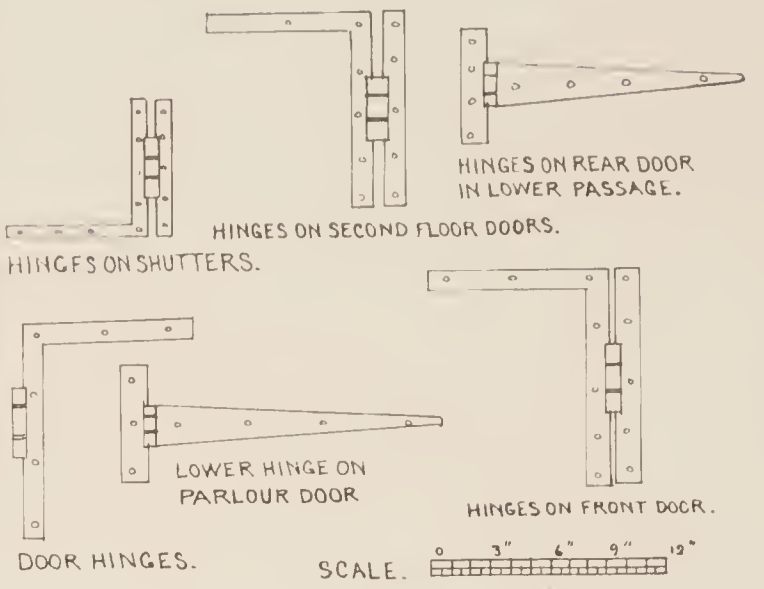
SECTION THROUGH HOUSE.

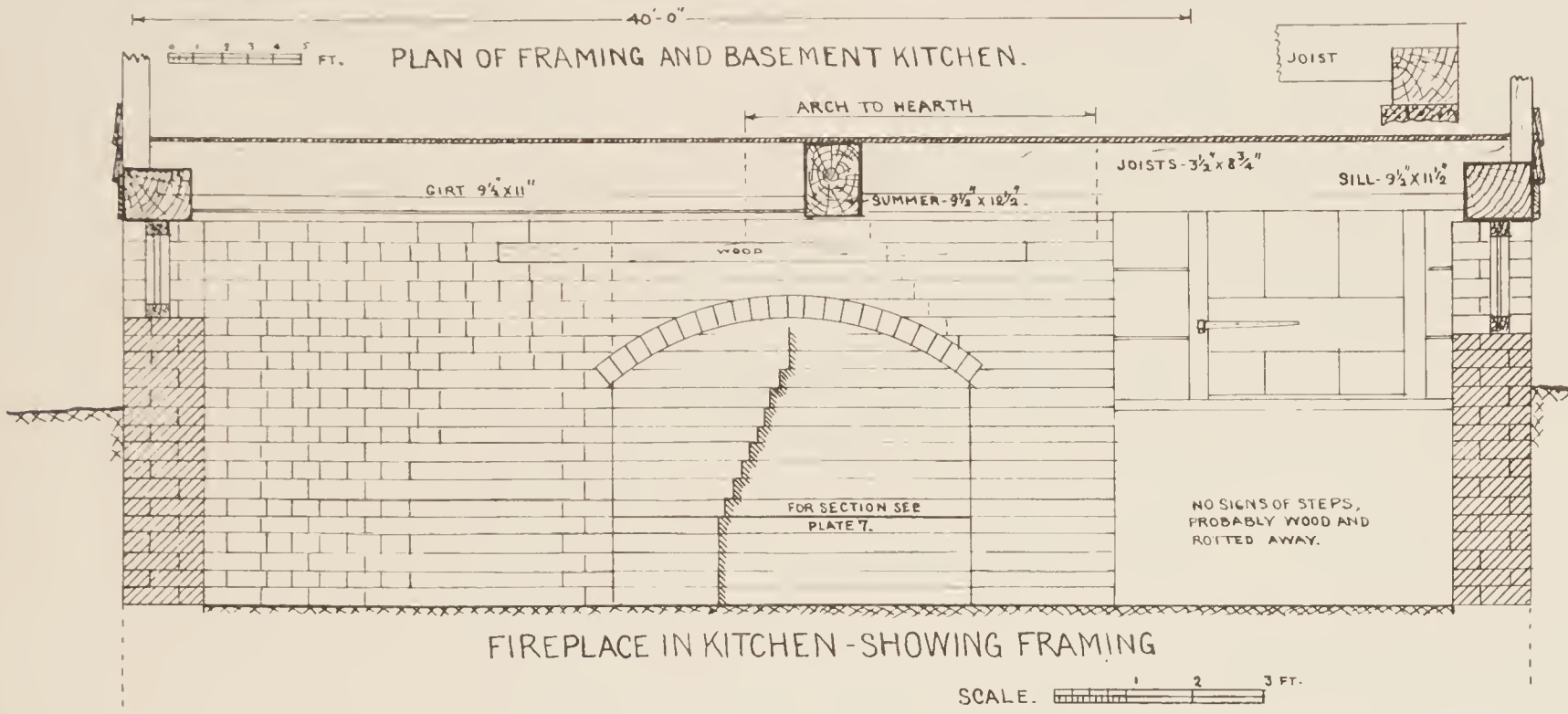
SCALE - 1 2 3 4 5 FT

PLATE 13

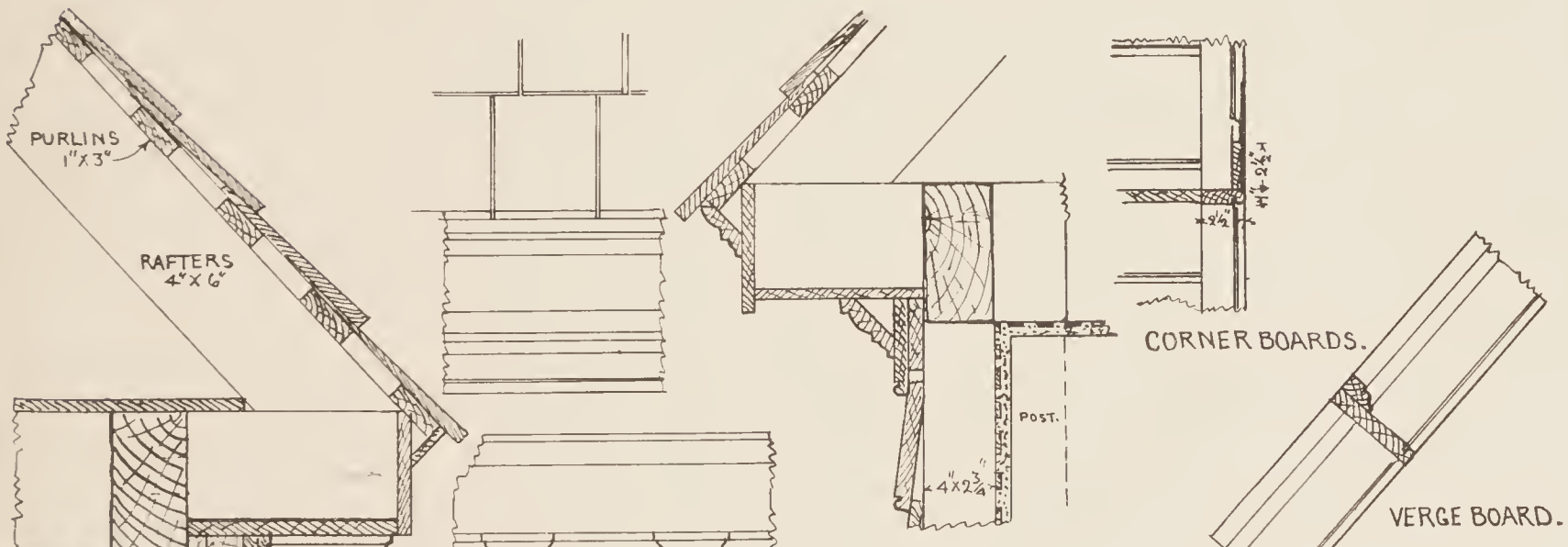


PLAN OF FRAMING AND BASEMENT KITCHEN.

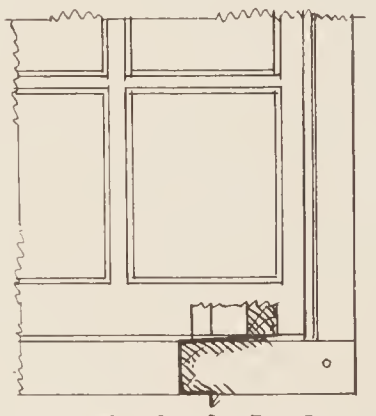

HINGES ON SHUTTERS.
HINGES ON SECOND FLOOR DOORS.
HINGES ON REAR DOOR IN LOWER PASSAGE.
LOWER HINGE ON PARLOUR DOOR
HINGES ON FRONT DOOR.
DOOR HINGES.
SCALE. 0 3" 6" 9" 12"



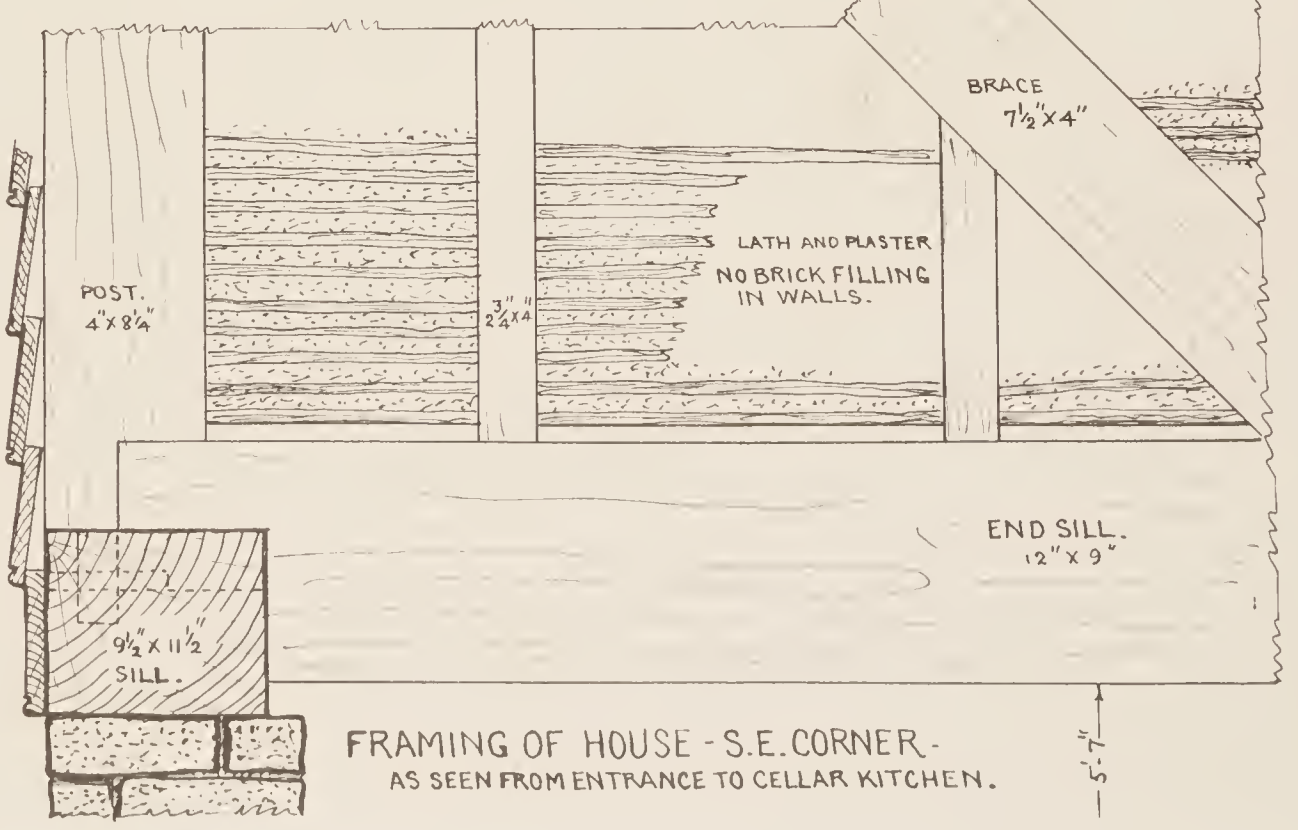
FIREPLACE IN KITCHEN - SHOWING FRAMING



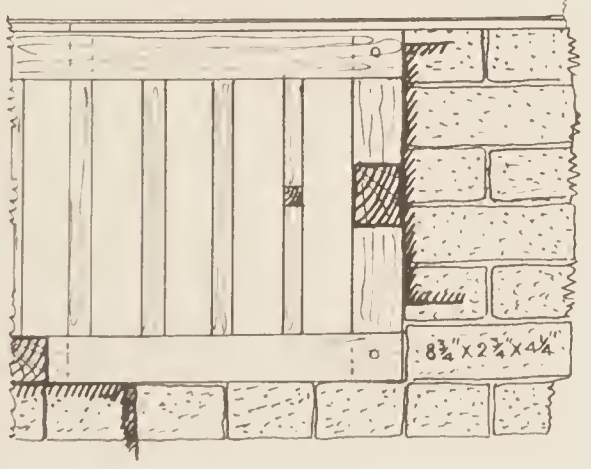
CORNICE ON FRONT OF HOUSE.



WINDOW SILLS - REAR.



FRAMING OF HOUSE - S.E. CORNER -
AS SEEN FROM ENTRANCE TO CELLAR KITCHEN.



CELLAR WINDOWS.
NO GLASS.

BUILT IN 1754 BY THOMAS NELSON,
GOVERNOR OF VIRGINIA.

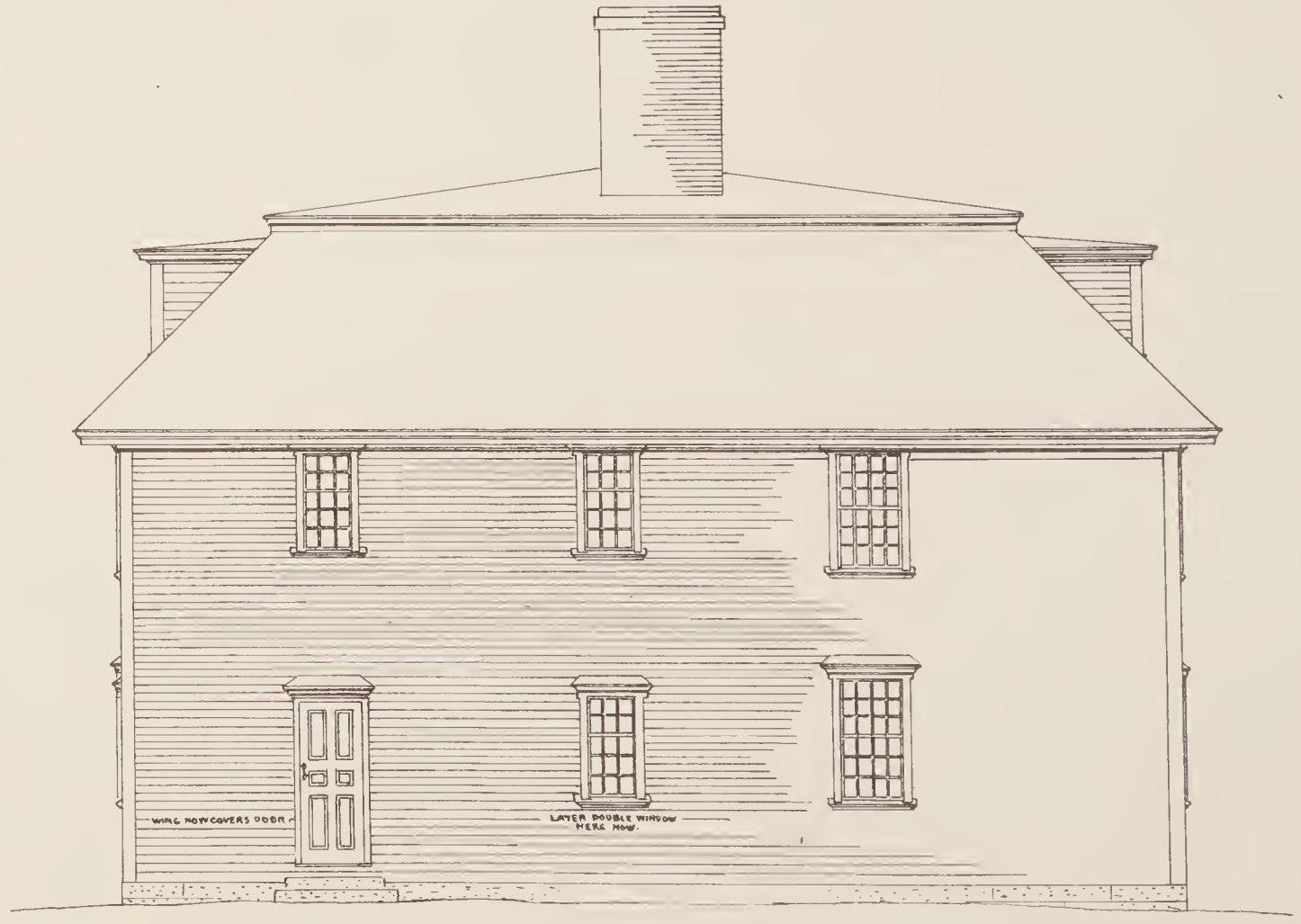
THE NELSON HOUSE, YORKTOWN, VA.

SCALE-

SOUTH ELEVATION

WEST ELEVATION.

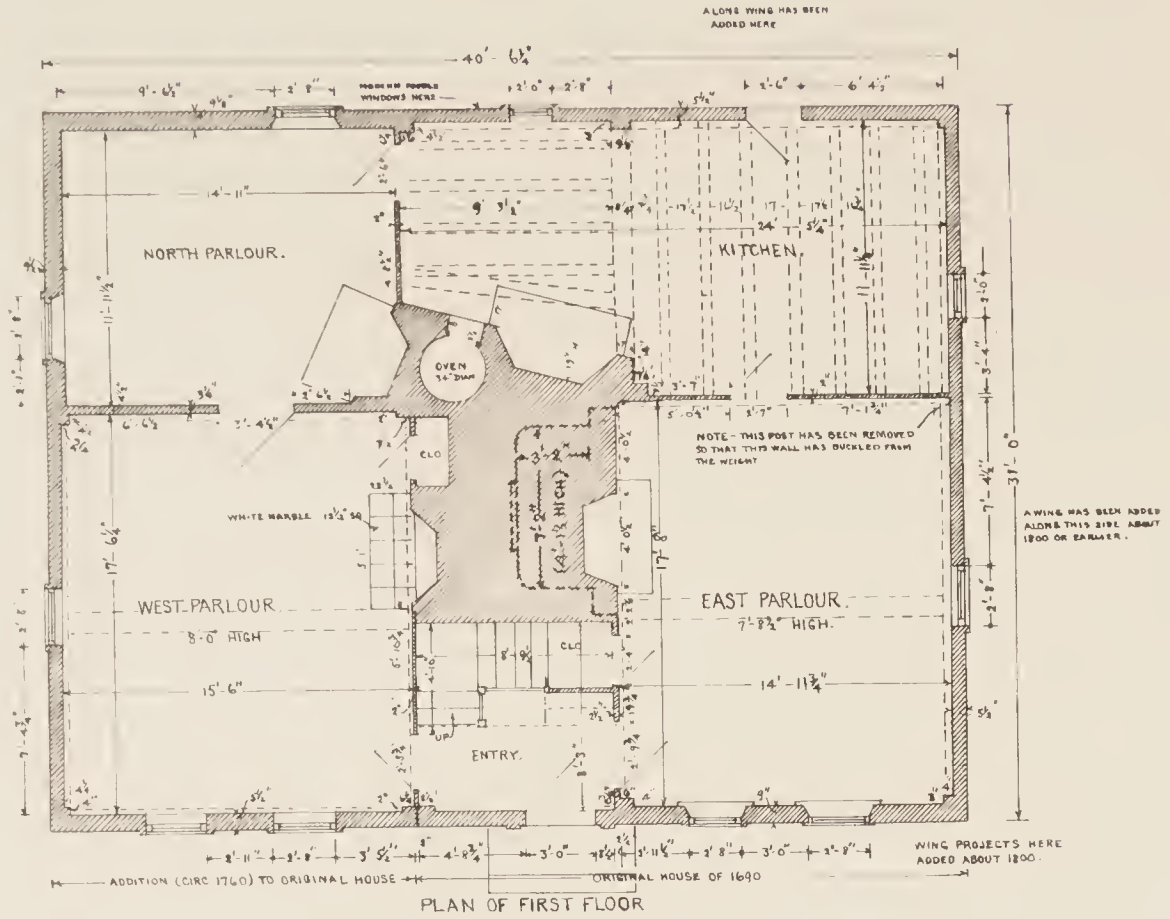
EAST ELEVATION



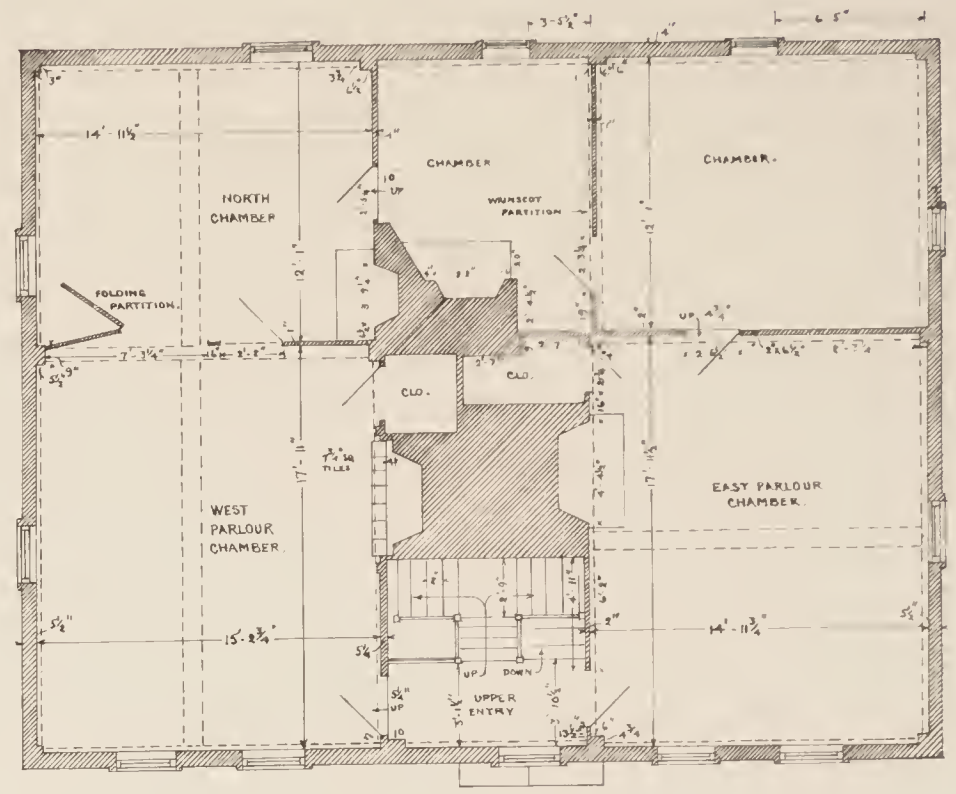
NORTH ELEVATION.

ORIGINAL (EASTERN) PART BUILT BY BENJAMIN MUZZY IN 1690.
OPENED AS A TAVERN BY JOHN MUZZY IN 1714;
RUN BY JOHN BUCKMAN FROM 1768 TO 1792, AND BY
RUFUS MERRIAM FROM 1792 TO ABOUT 1847. ENLARGED ABOUT 1760.
PURCHASED BY THE LEXINGTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY IN 1915.
THE HOUSE IS SHOWN IN THESE DRAWINGS AS IT APPEARED DURING THE REVOLUTION.

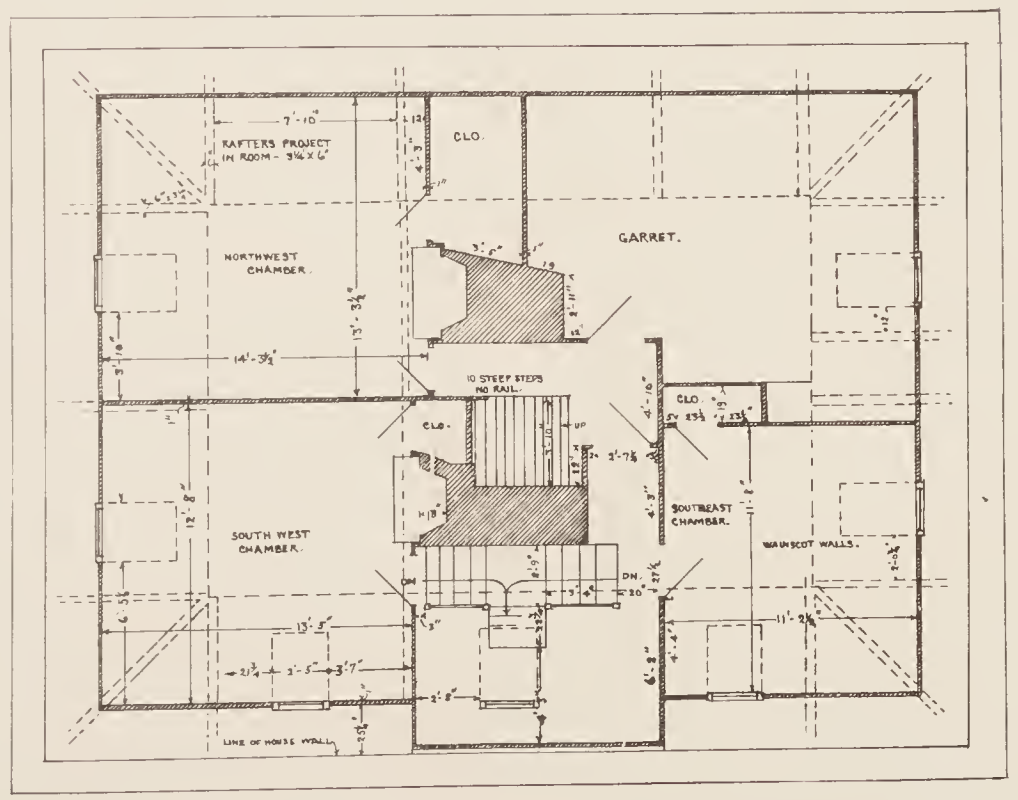
THE BUCKMAN TAVERN,
LEXINGTON, MASSACHUSETTS.


A LONE WING HAS BEEN ADDED HERE
40' 6½"
NORTH PARLOUR.
KITCHEN.
OVEN 14" DIAM.
CLO.
WHITE MARBLE 13½" SQ.
WEST PARLOUR
8'-0" HIGH
EAST PARLOUR.
7'-8½" HIGH.
ENTRY.
NOTE - THIS POST HAS BEEN REMOVED SO THAT THIS WALL HAS BUCKLED FROM THE WEIGHT
A WING HAS BEEN ADDED ALONE THIS SIDE ABOUT 1800 OR EARLIER.
31'-0"
ADDITION (CIRC 1760) TO ORIGINAL HOUSE
ORIGINAL HOUSE OF 1690
WING PROJECTS HERE ADDED ABOUT 1800

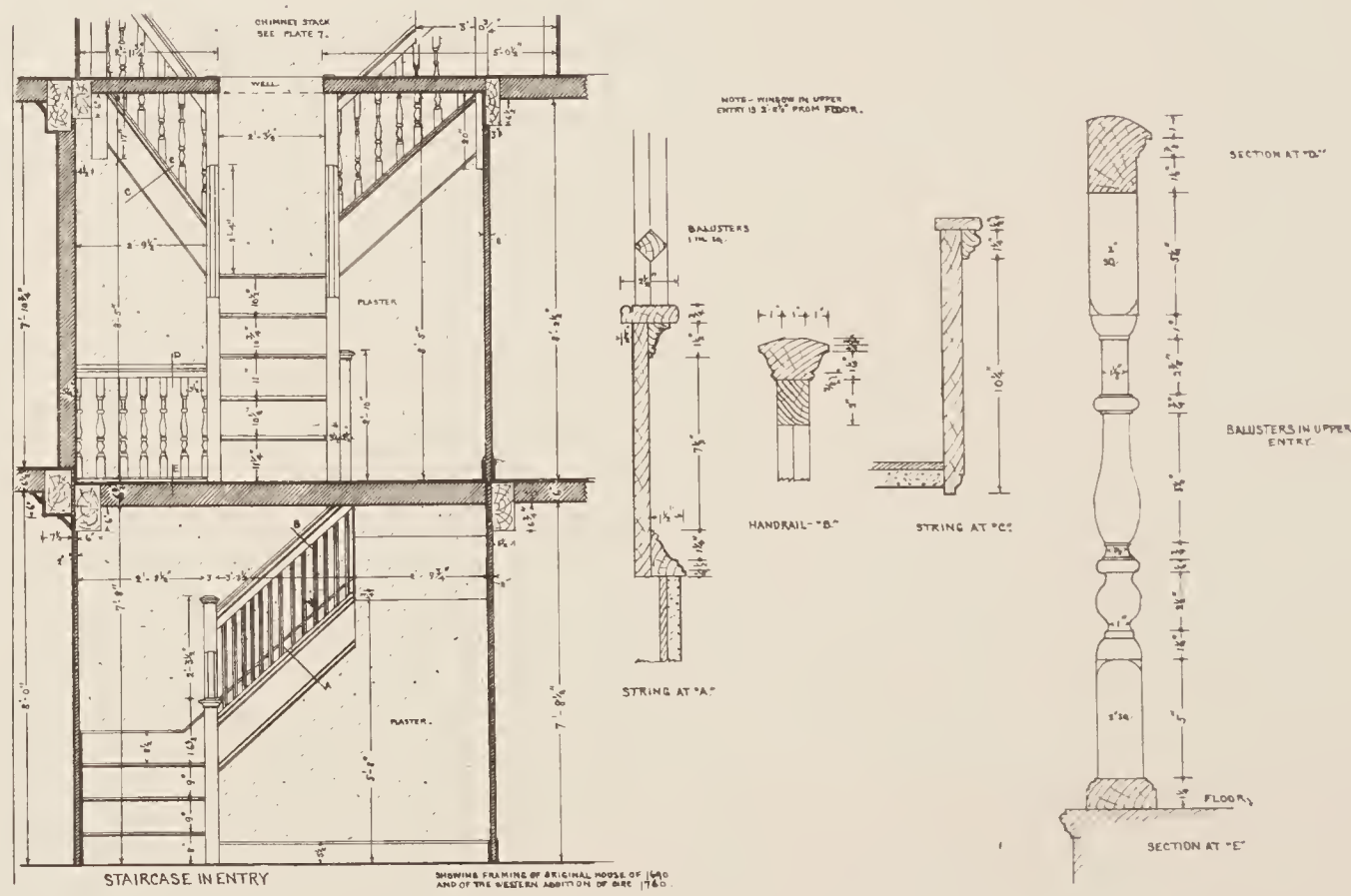
PLAN OF FIRST FLOOR



PLAN OF SECOND FLOOR



PLAN OF THIRD FLOOR

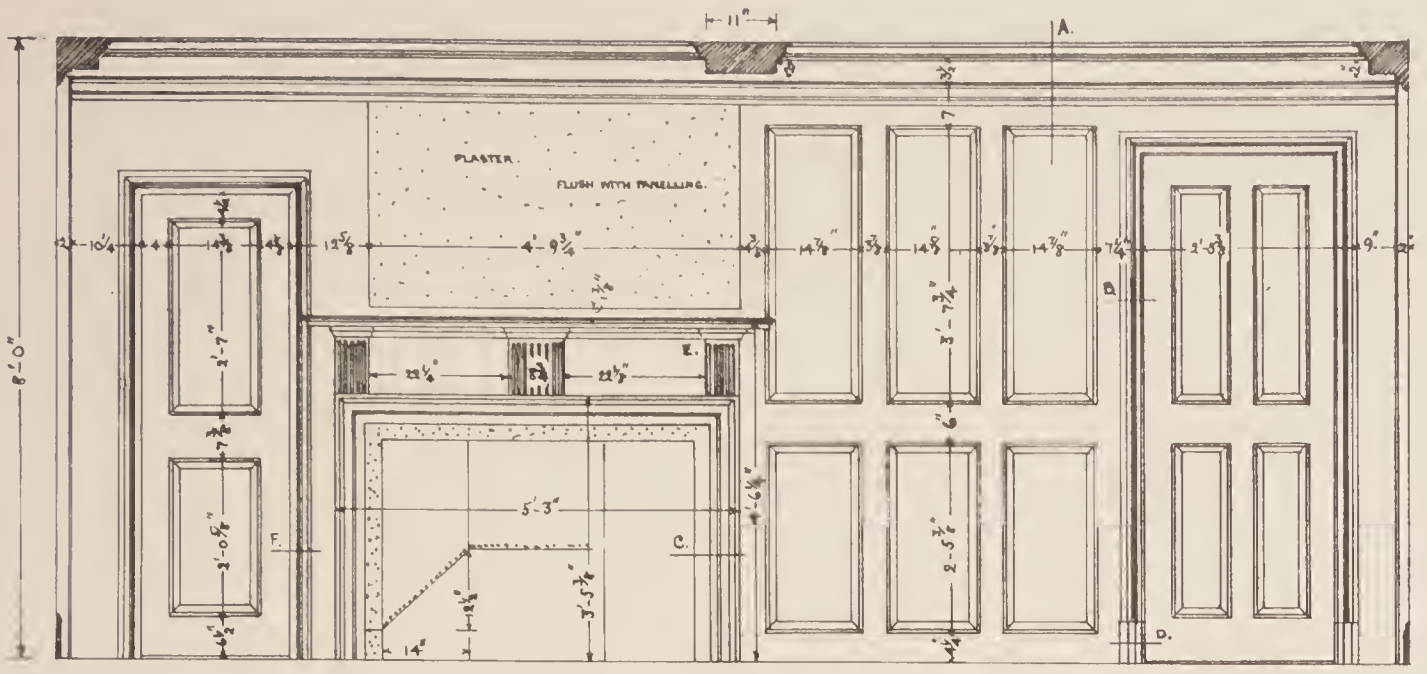


STAIRCASE IN ENTRY

SHOWING FRAMING OF ORIGINAL HOUSE OF 1690 AND OF THE WESTERN ADDITION OF ABT 1760

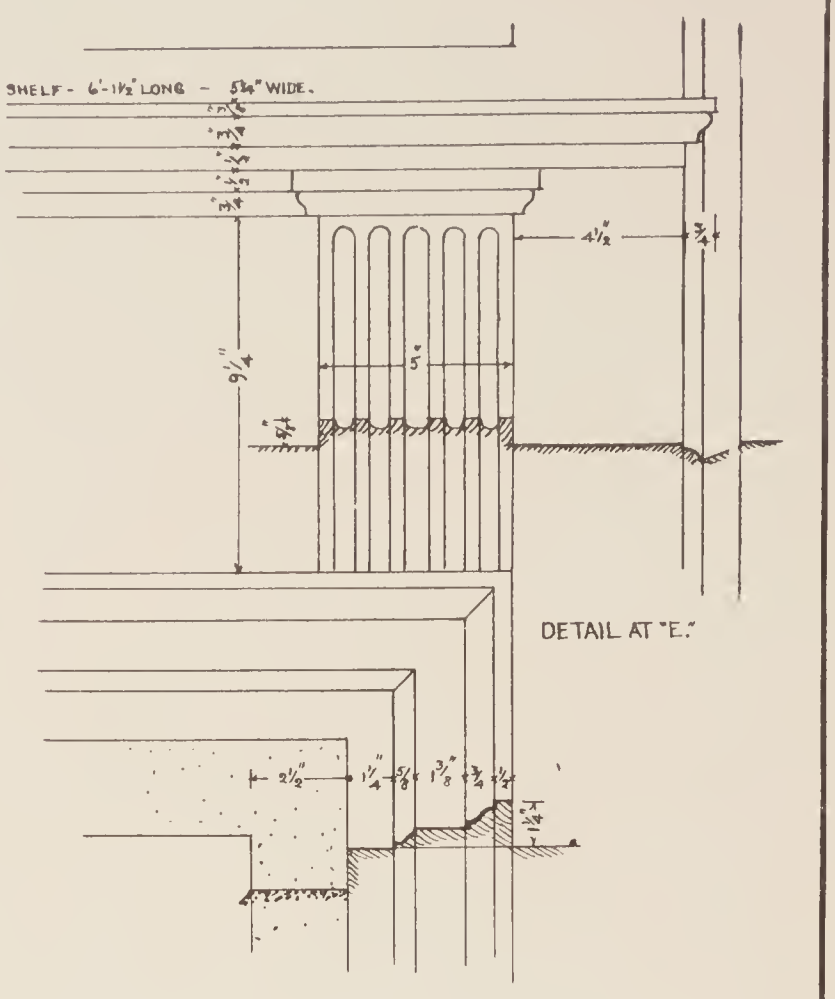
NOTE - THESE DRAWINGS SHOW THE HOUSE AS IT WAS DURING THE REVOLUTION.

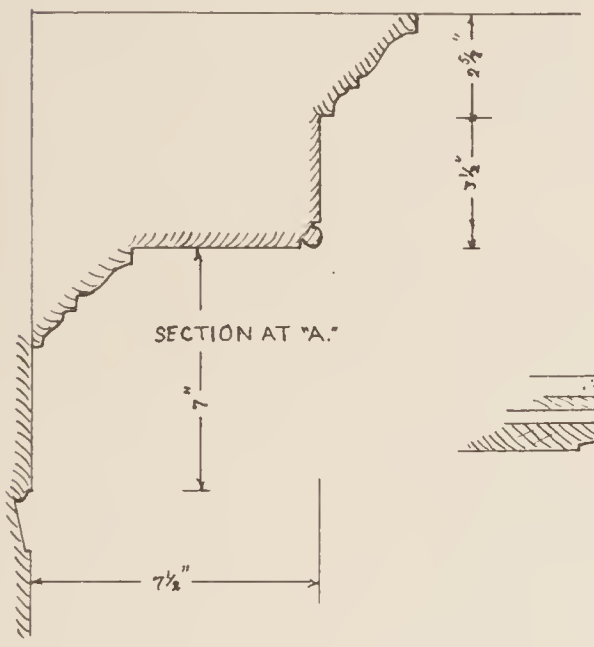
THE BUCKMAN TAVERN,
LEXINGTON, MASS.

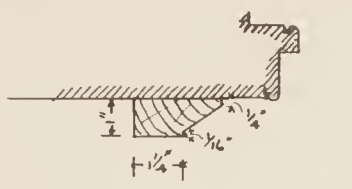


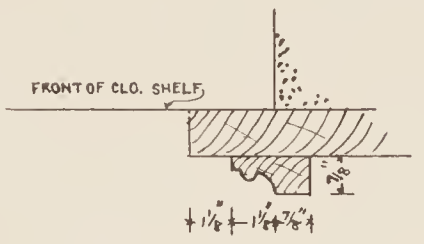
EAST SIDE OF WEST PARLOUR - =1F.

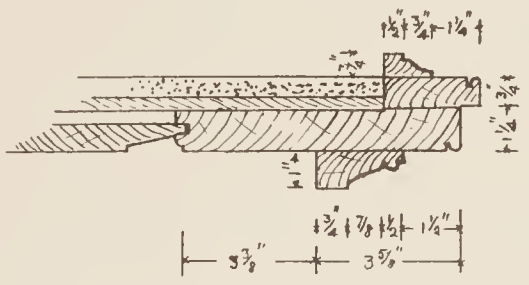
NOTE. A MODERN DOOR HERE NOW.

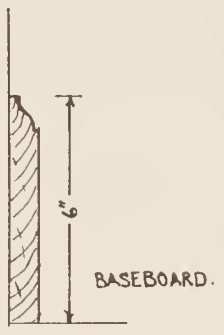


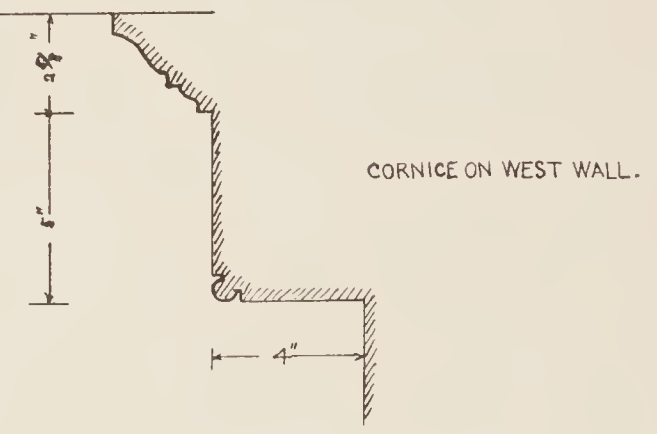


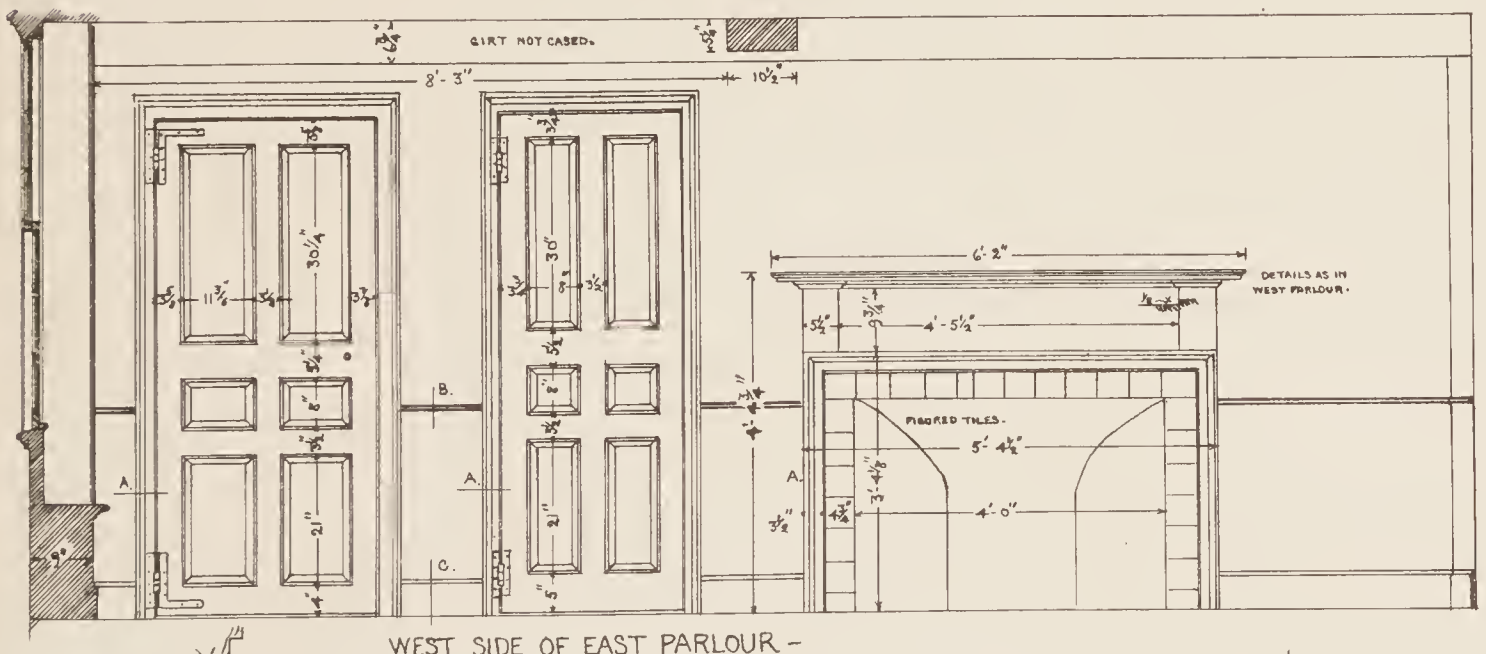




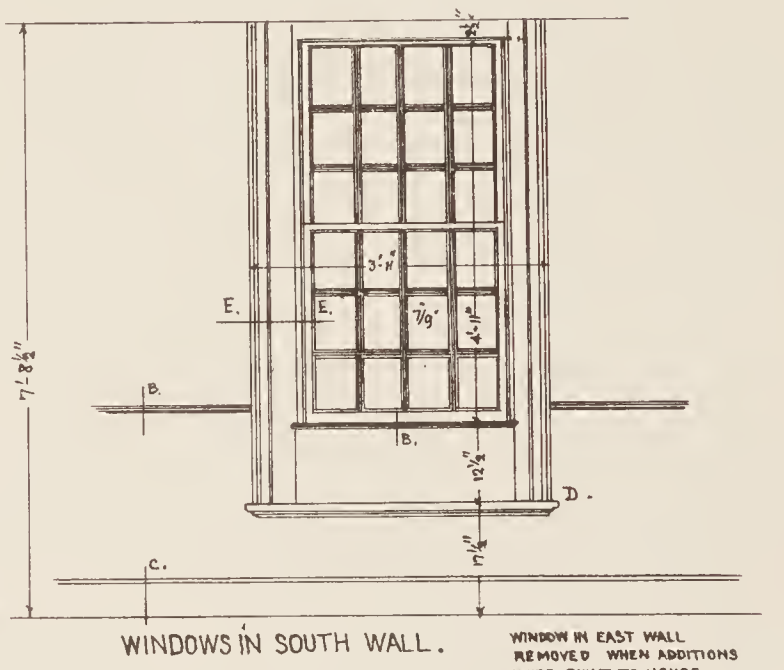






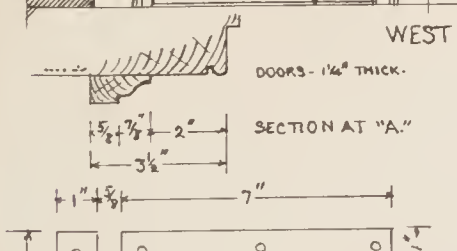


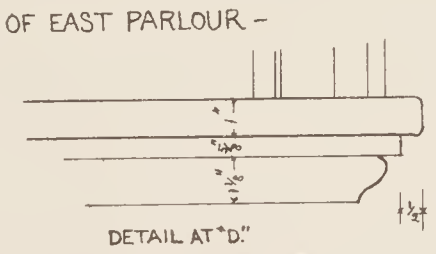
WEST SIDE OF EAST PARLOUR -

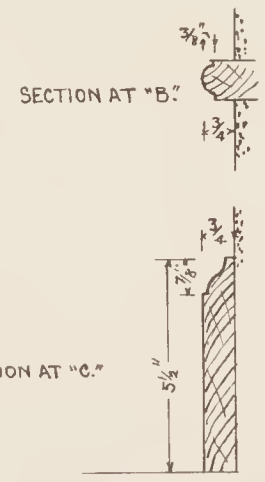


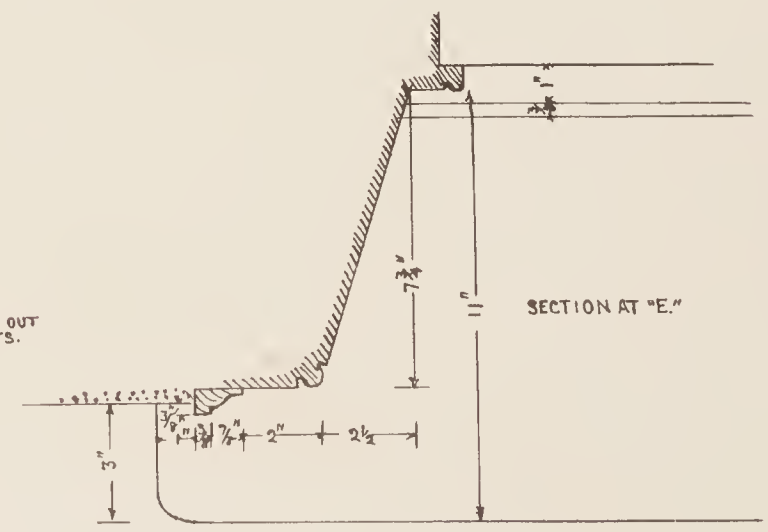
WINDOWS IN SOUTH WALL.

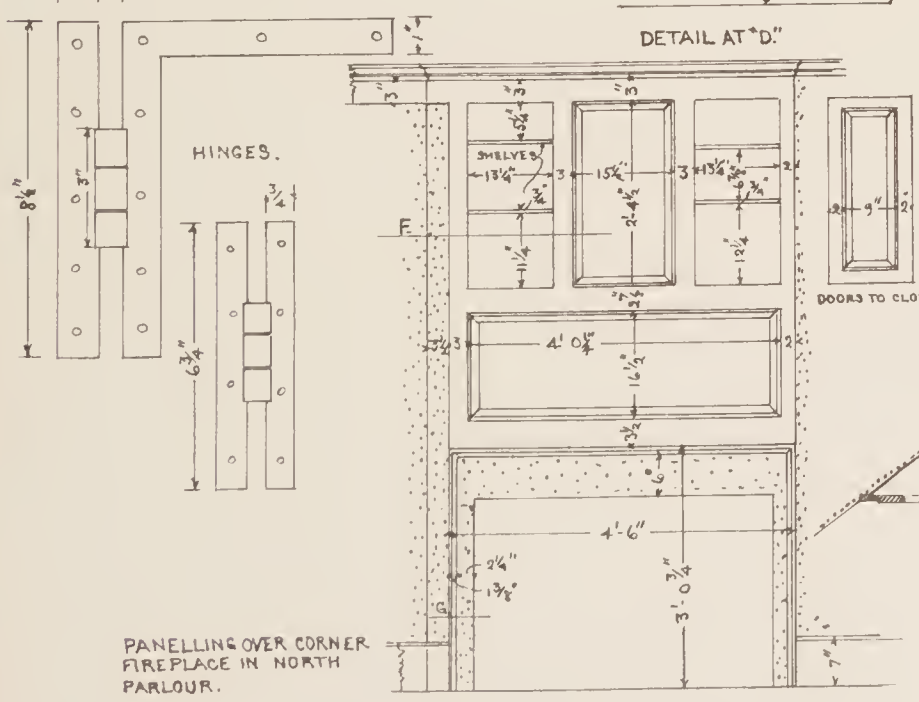
WINDOW IN EAST WALL REMOVED WHEN ADDITIONS WERE BUILT TO HOUSE.

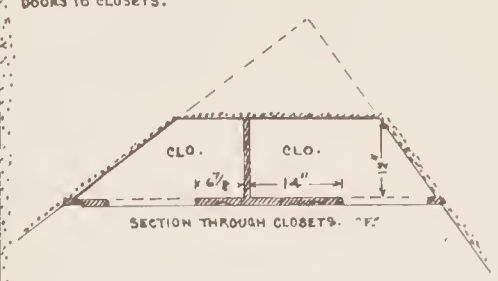


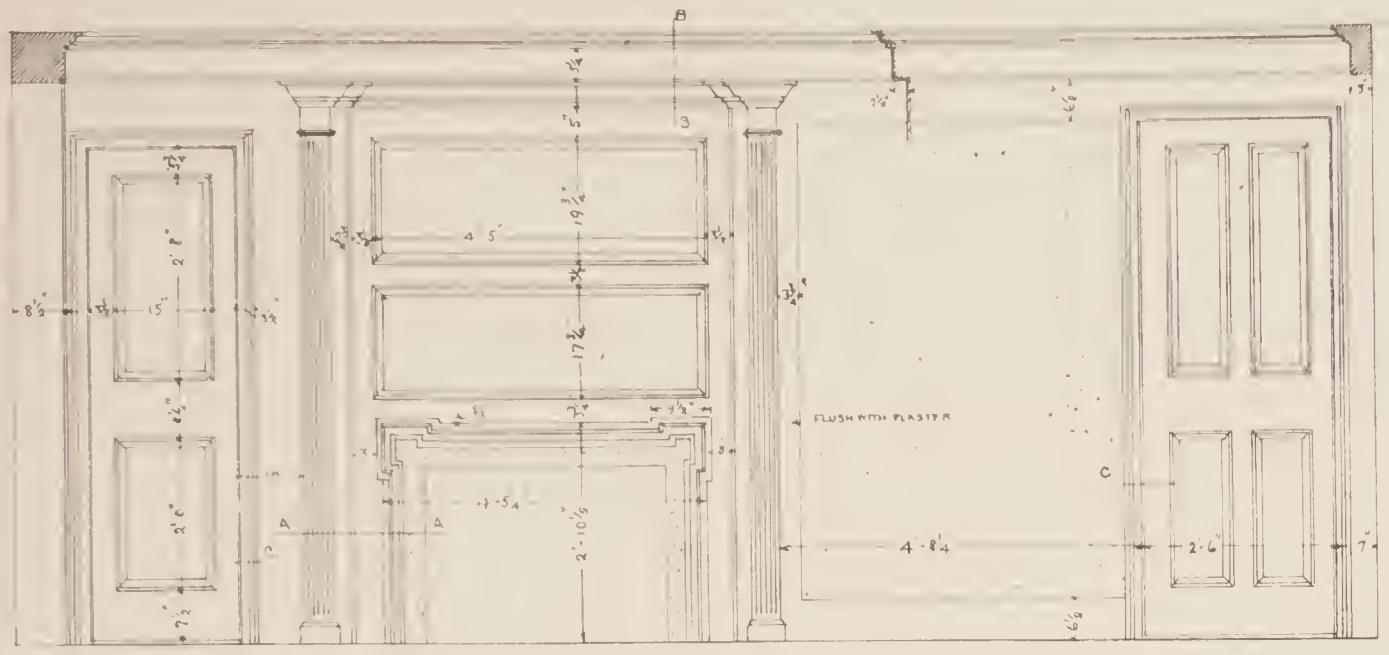




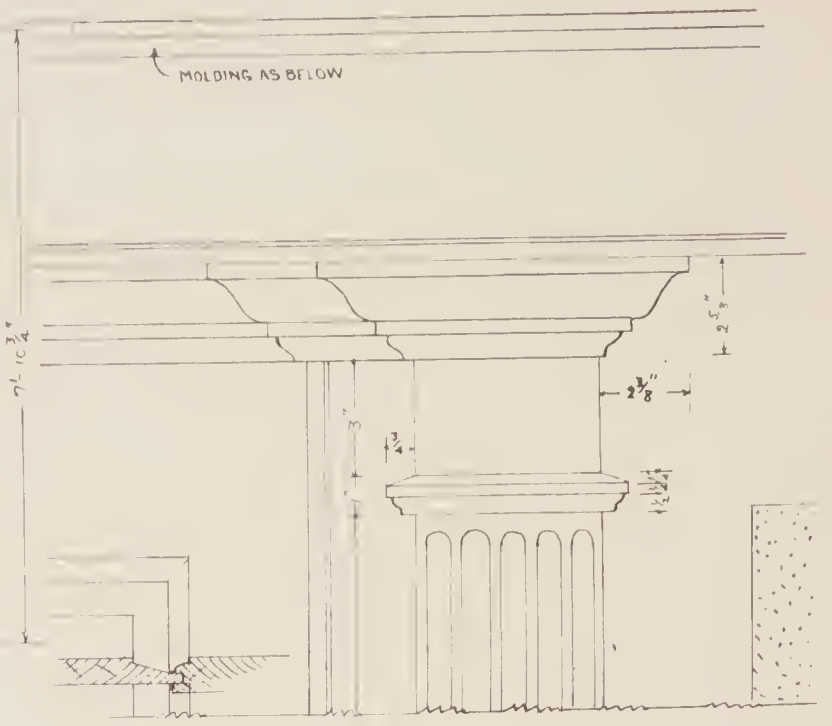


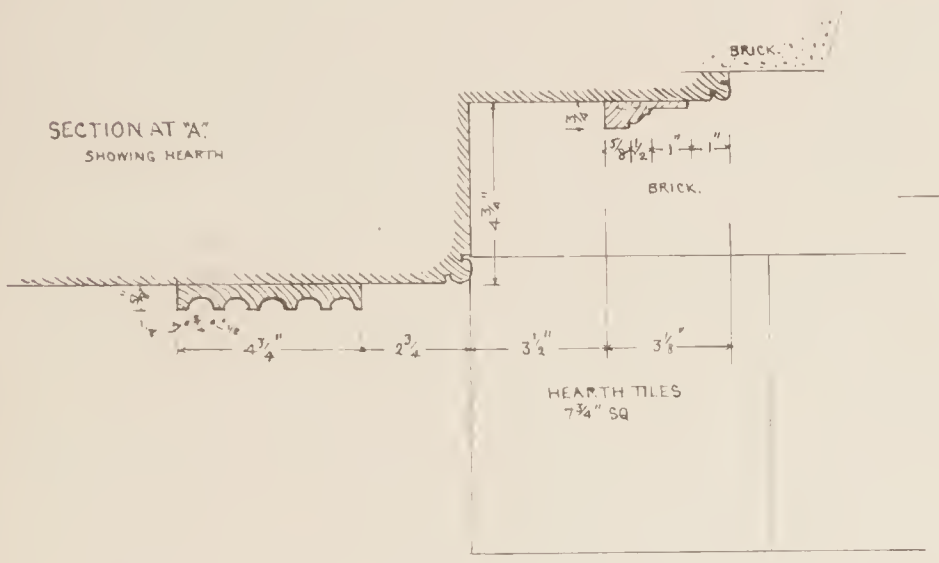




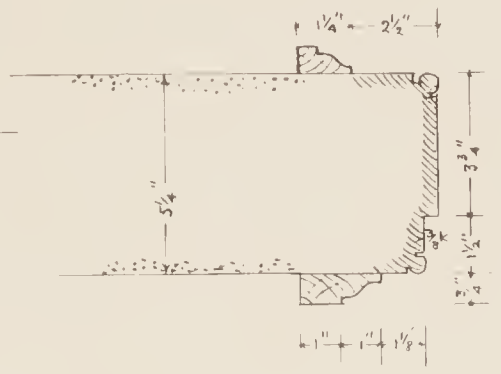


WEST PARLOUR CHAMBER - EAST SIDE.

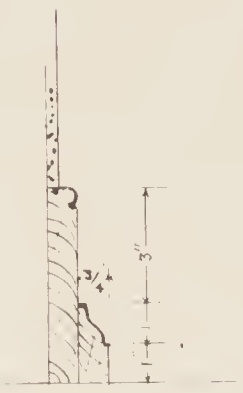




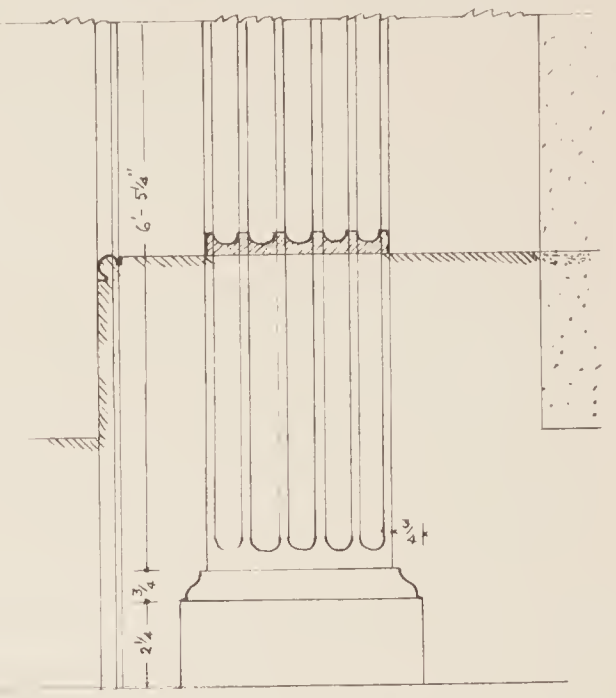
SECTION AT "A"
SHOWING HEARTH



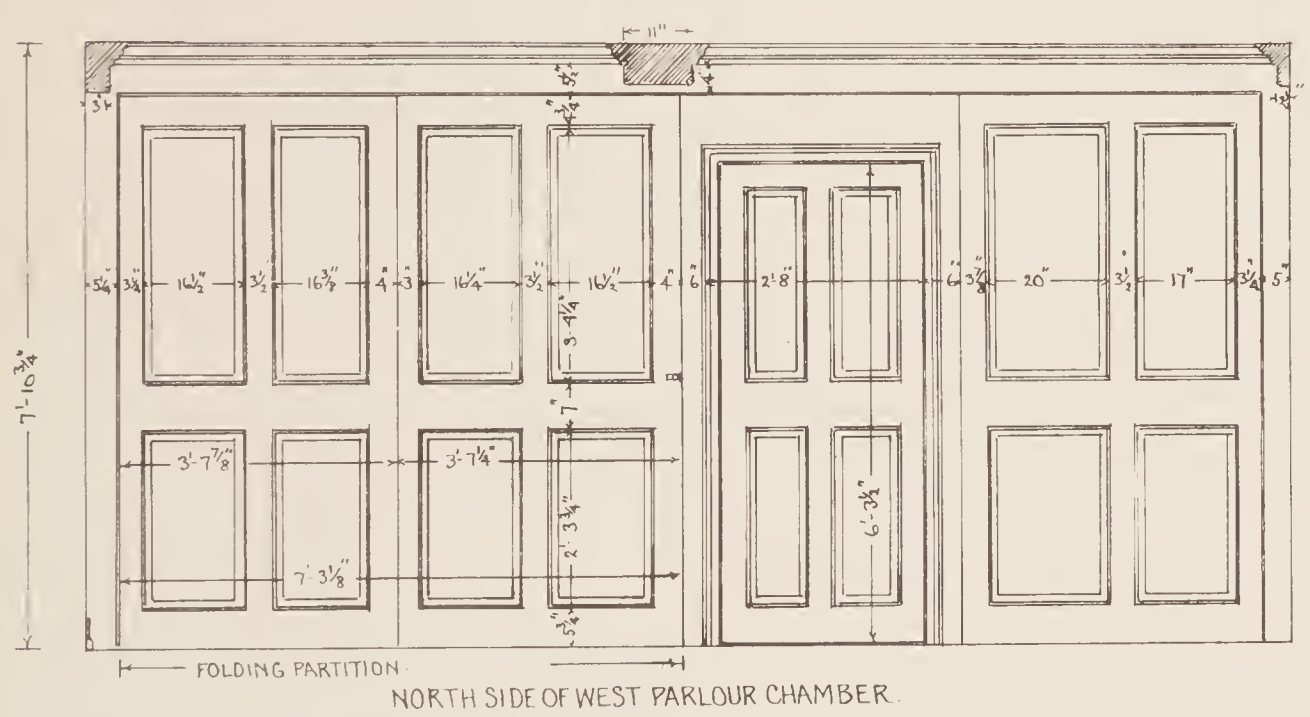
DOOR TRIM AT "C"



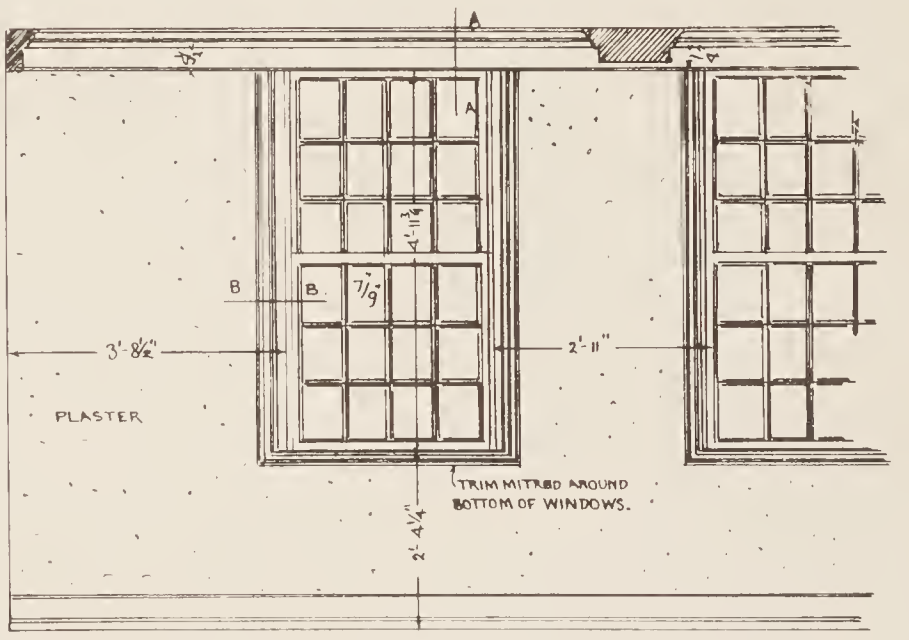
BASEBOARD.



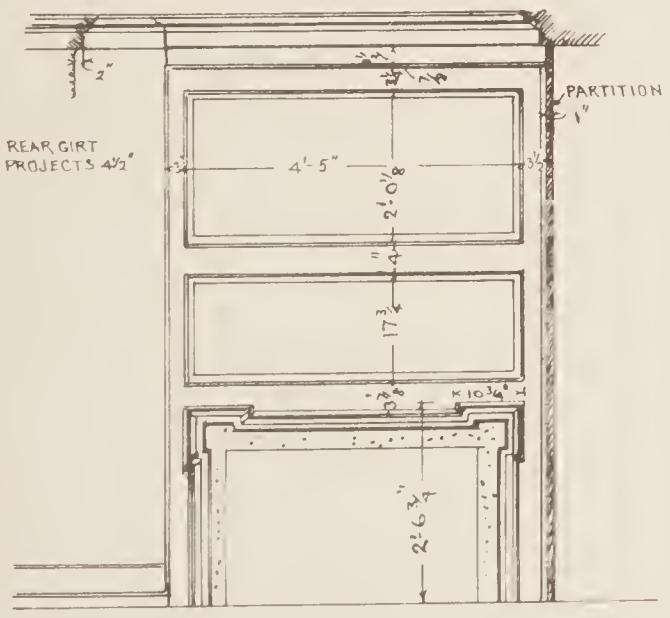
DETAILS OF PILASTERS AND CORNICE AT "B"



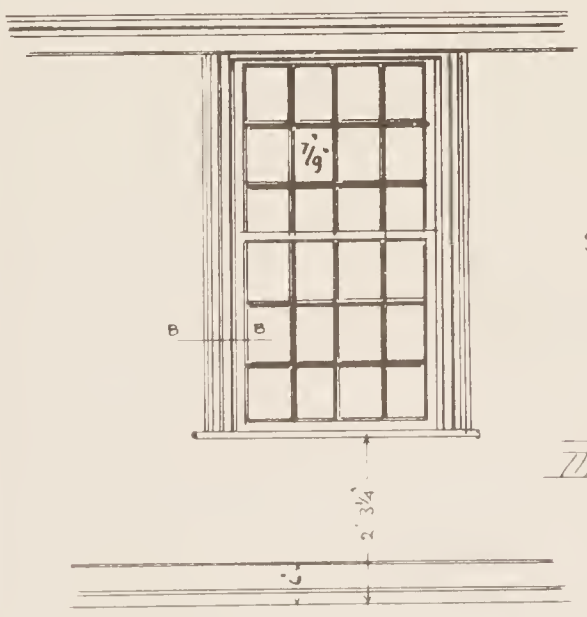
NORTH SIDE OF WEST PARLOUR CHAMBER.



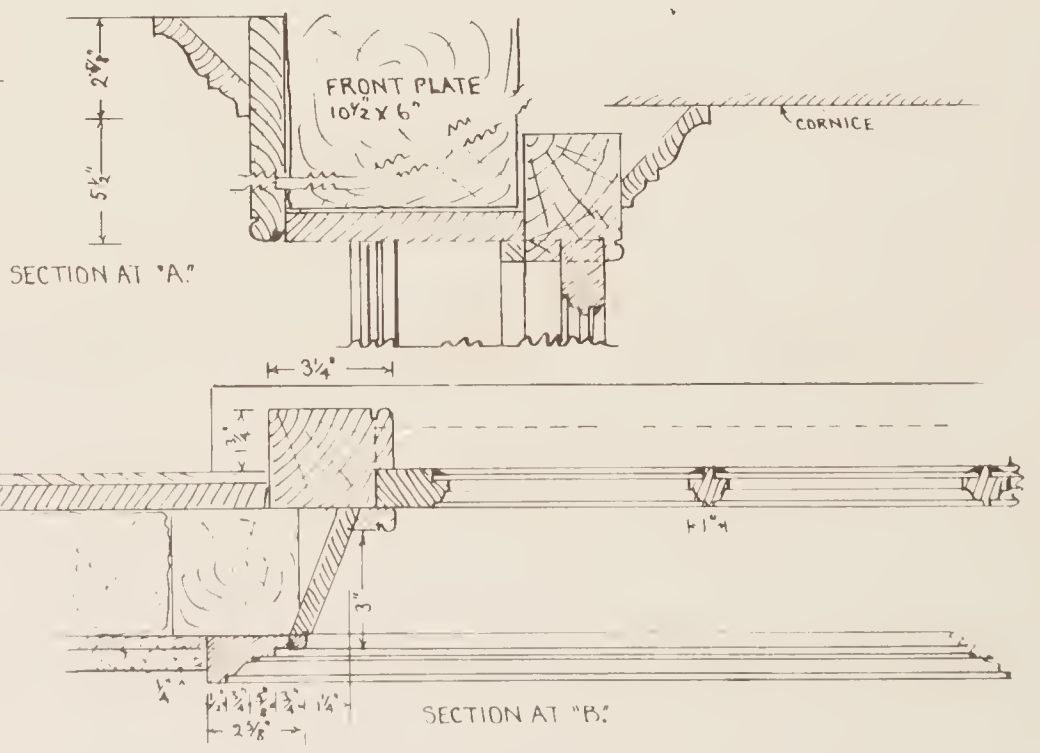
SOUTH SIDE OF WEST PARLOUR CHAMBER. WINDOWS.



FIREPLACE IN NORTH CHAMBER.

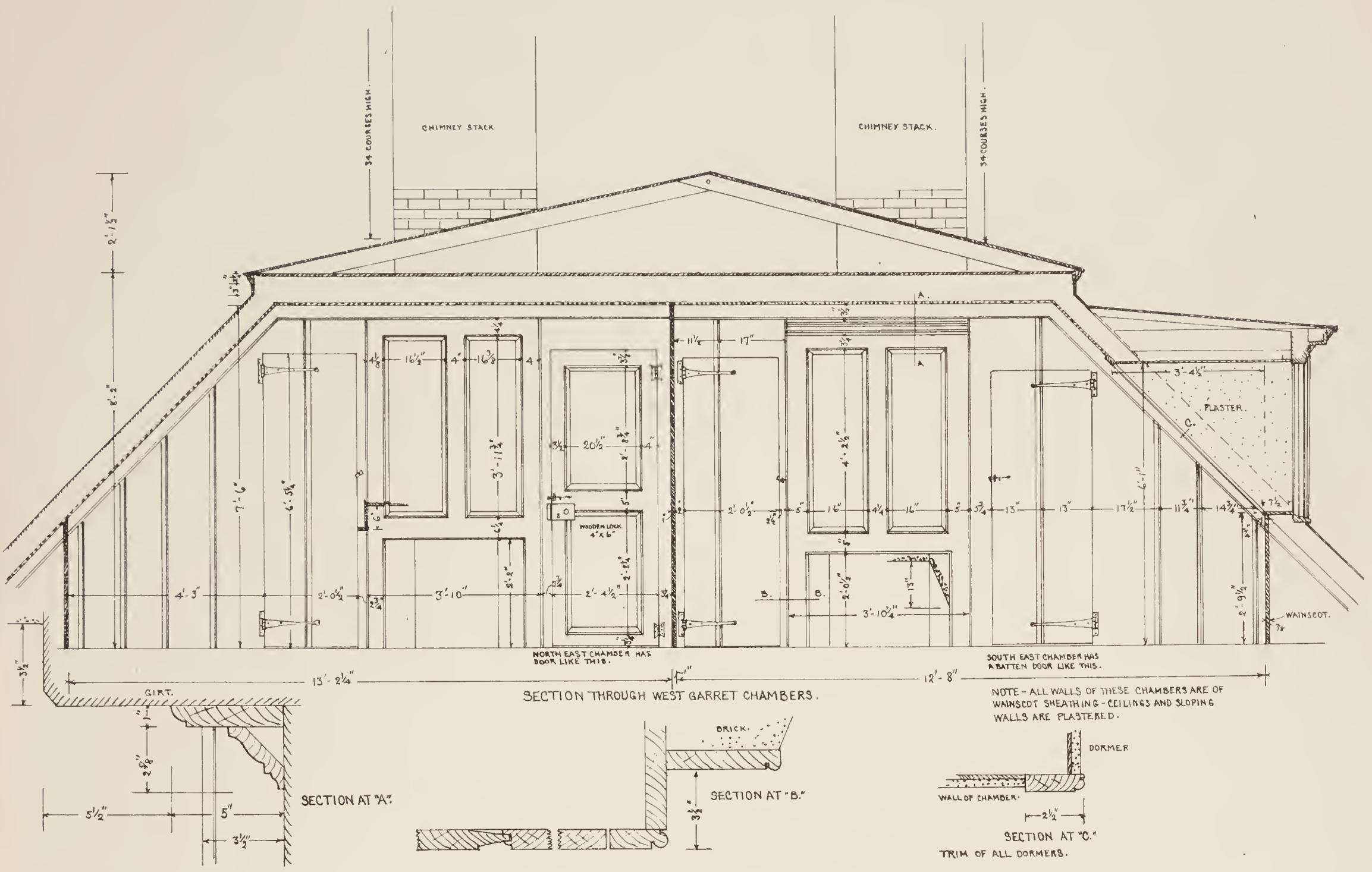


WINDOWS IN NORTH CHAMBER.



SECTION AT "A"

SECTION AT "B"



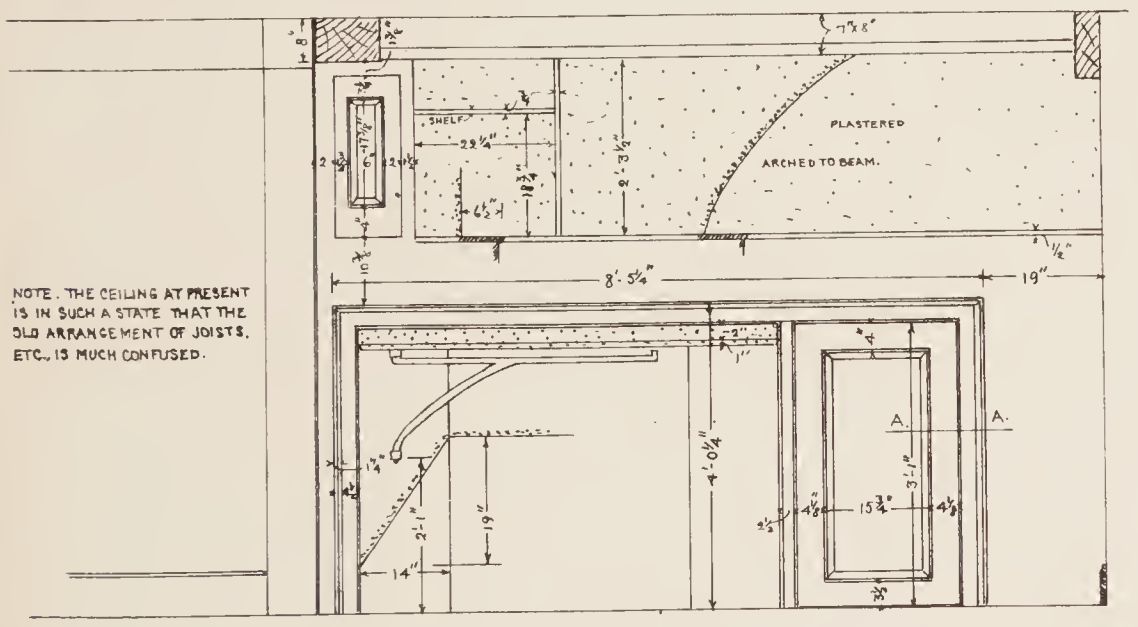
SECTION THROUGH WEST GARRET CHAMBERS.

NOTE - ALL WALLS OF THESE CHAMBERS ARE OF WAINSCOT SHEATHING - CEILINGS AND SLOPING WALLS ARE PLASTERED.

SECTION AT "A."

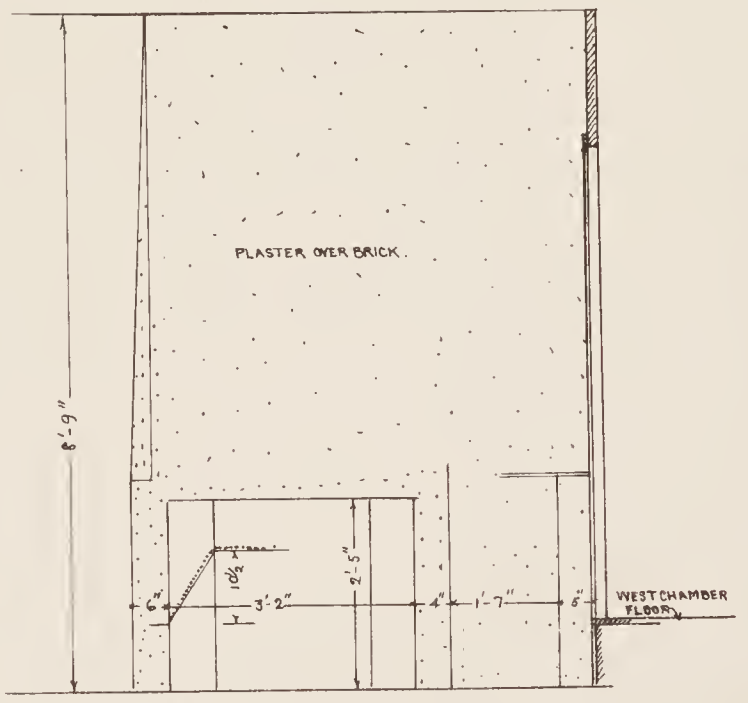
SECTION AT "B."

SECTION AT "C."
TRIM OF ALL DORMERS.

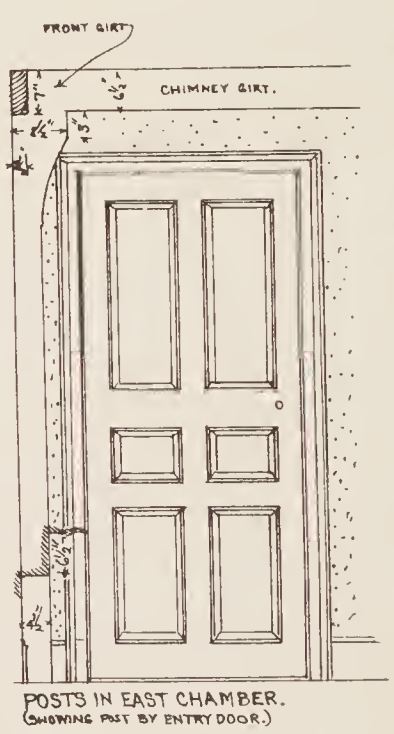

NOTE. THE CEILING AT PRESENT IS IN SUCH A STATE THAT THE OLD ARRANGEMENT OF JOISTS, ETC., IS MUCH CONFUSED.
SHELF
PLASTERED ARCHED TO BEAM.
8'-5¼"
19"
4'-0¼"
14"
WOODEN LOCK 4"x6"

FIRE PLACE IN KITCHEN.

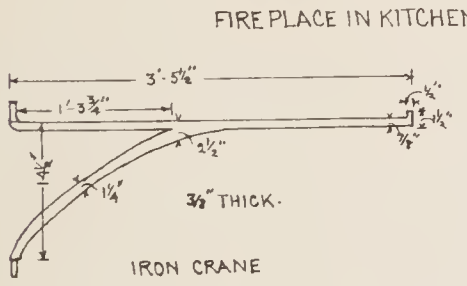
WINDOWS - 2'-5" FROM FLOOR.



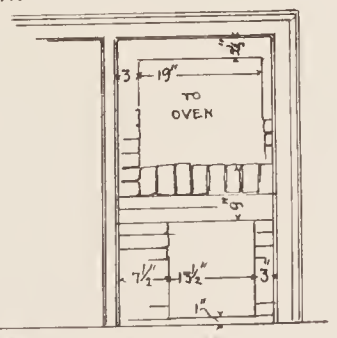
FIREPLACE IN KITCHEN CHAMBER.



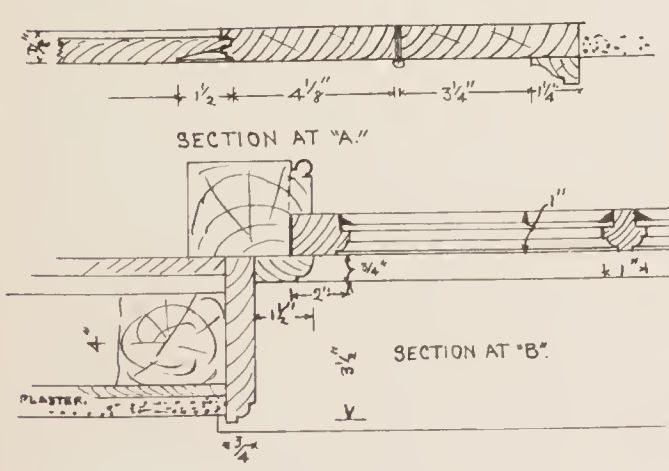
POSTS IN EAST CHAMBER.
(SHOWING POST BY ENTRY DOOR.)



IRON CRANE

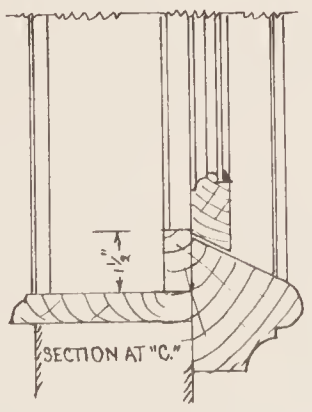


BRICKWORK ABOUT OVEN. BACK OF DOOR SHOWN ABOVE AT "A."

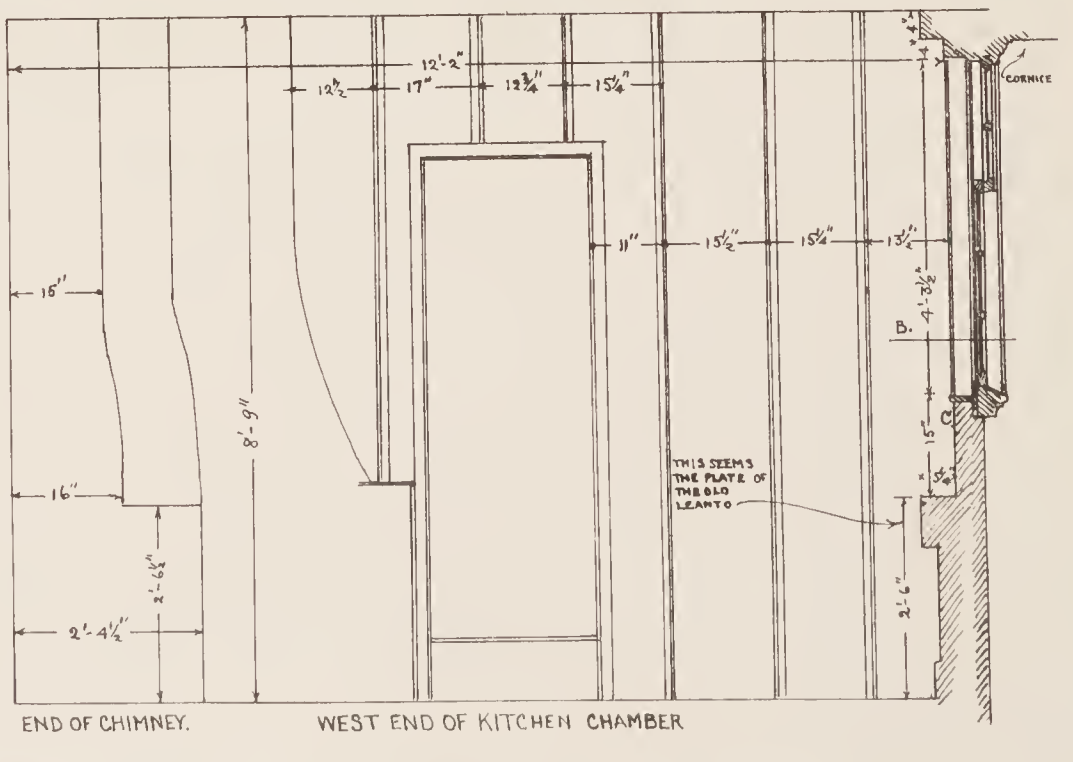


SECTION AT "A."

SECTION AT "B."



SECTION AT "C."

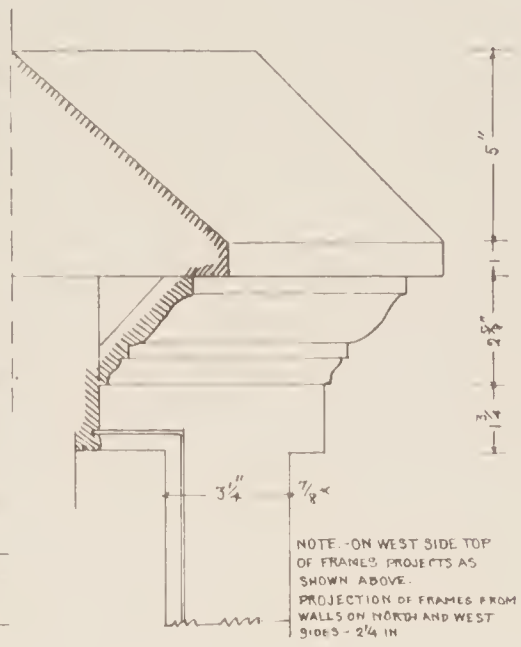


END OF CHIMNEY.

WEST END OF KITCHEN CHAMBER

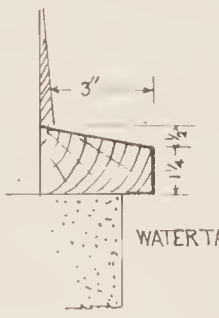
RESTORE ENTRANCE DOORWAY.

WINDOWS.

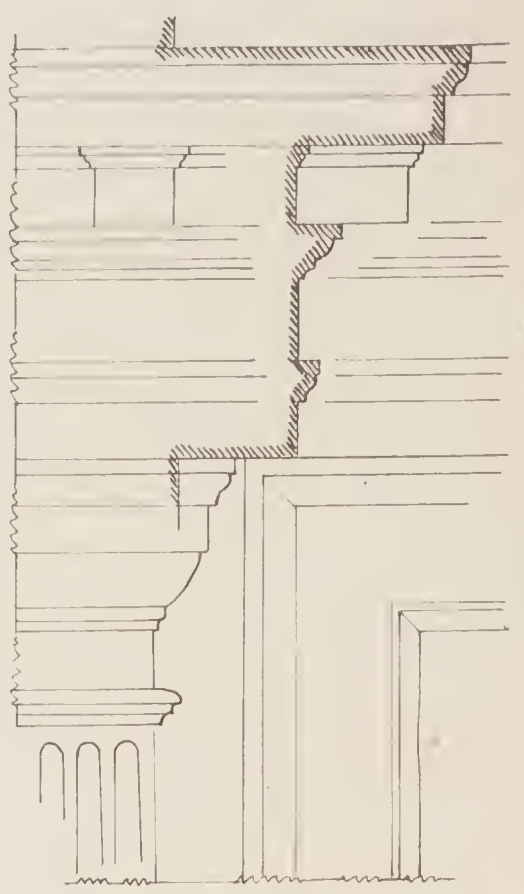


NOTE.-ON WEST SIDE TOP OF FRAMES PROJECTS AS SHOWN ABOVE. PROJECTION OF FRAMES FROM WALLS ON NORTH AND WEST SIDES - 2¼ IN

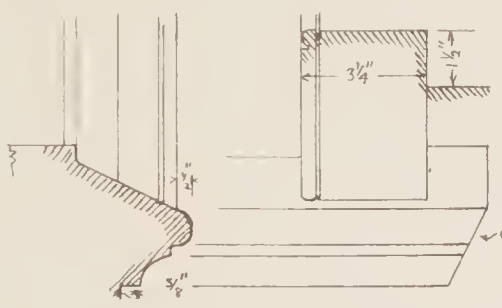
CAPS OF WINDOWS. - "A."



WATERTABLE-"F."

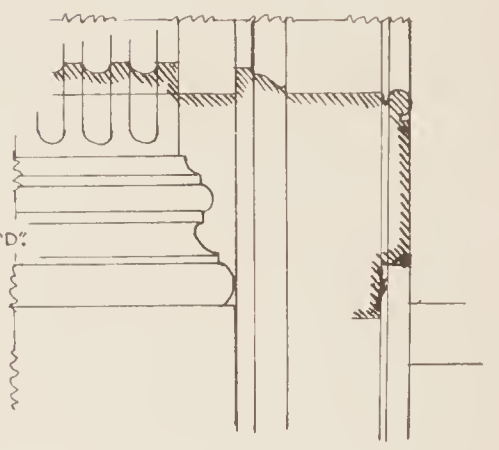


DETAIL AT "C"



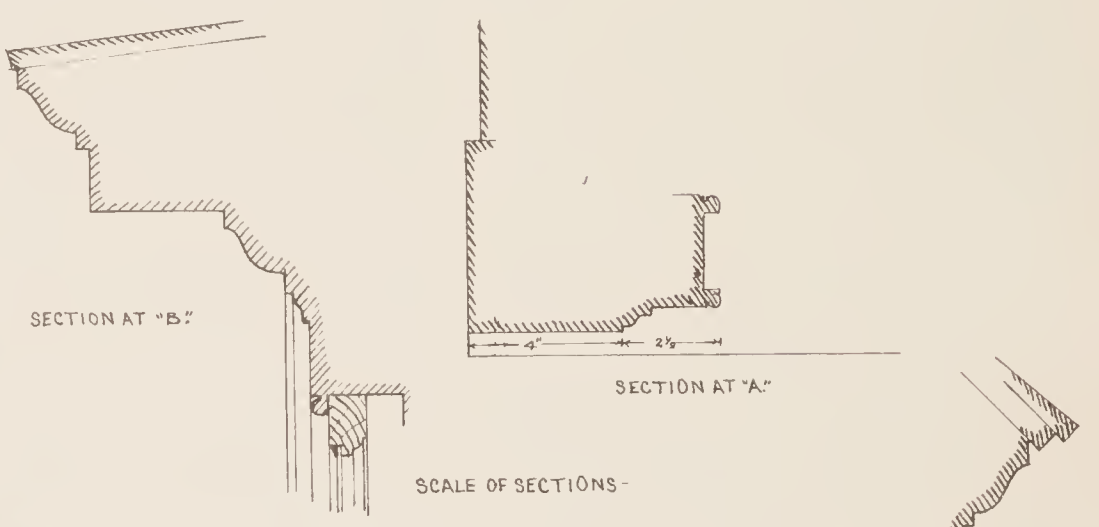
DETAIL AT "B"

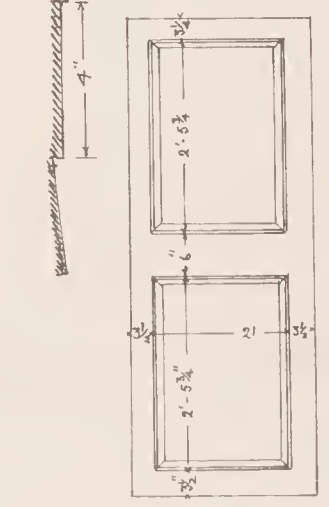
NOTE. THIS DOORWAY IS A RESTORATION OF THE ORIGINAL DOORWAY - AND DOES NOT SHOW THE "RESTORED" DOOR NOW ON THE HOUSE



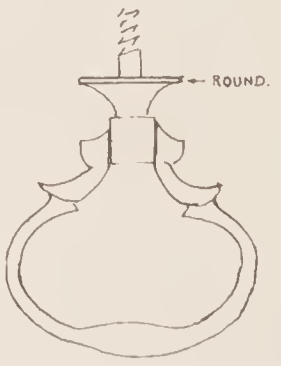
DETAIL AT "D"

DETAIL OF WEST SIDE OF HOUSE - SHOWING DORMERS.



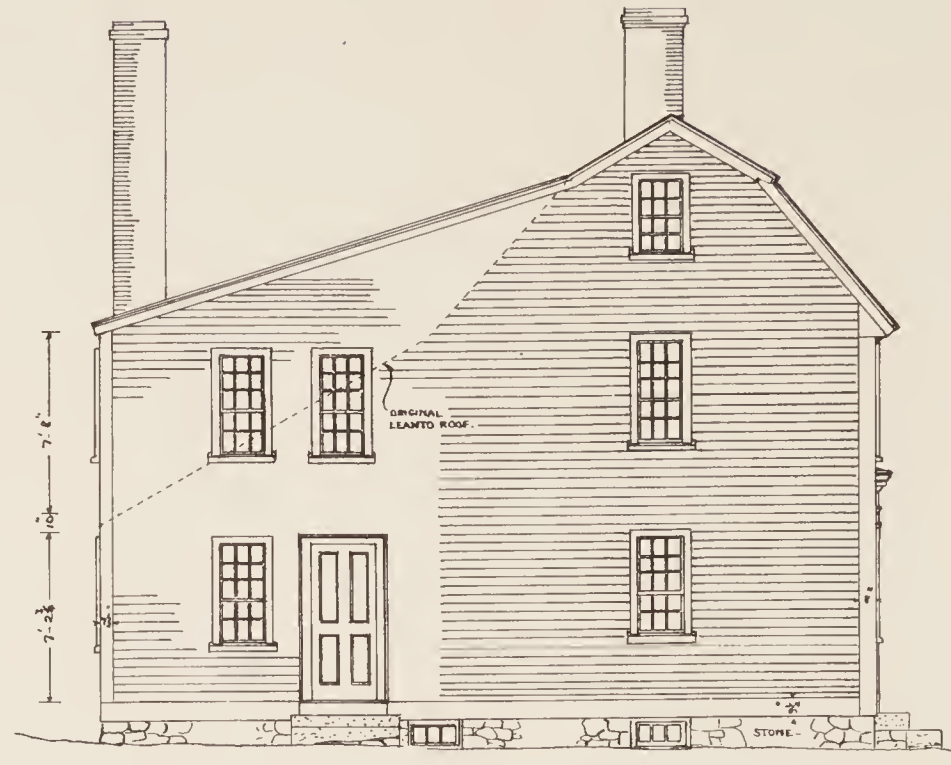


OLD DOOR - NOW IN WING

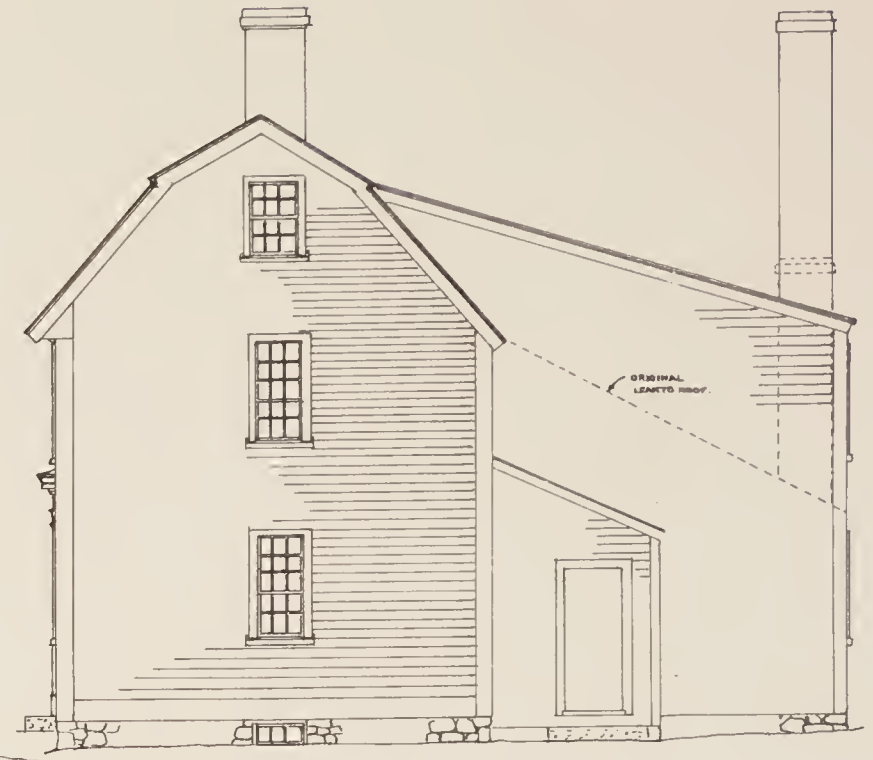


BRASS HANDLES ON CLOSET DOORS

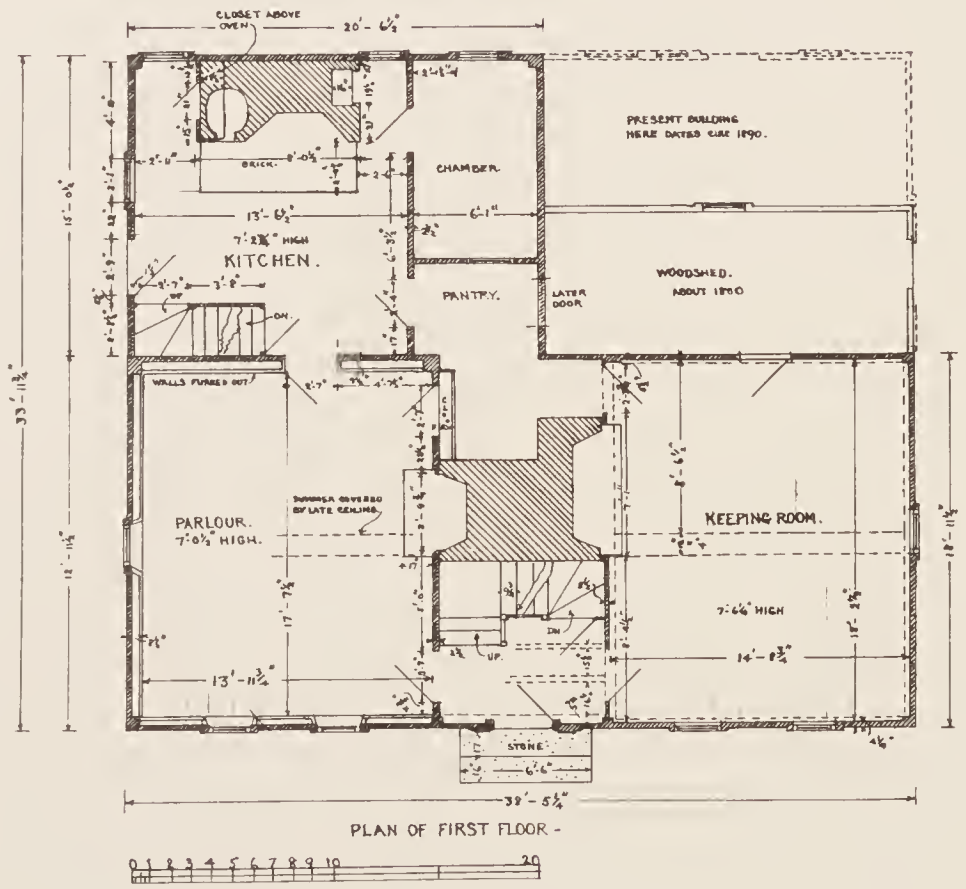
SOUTH ELEVATION -



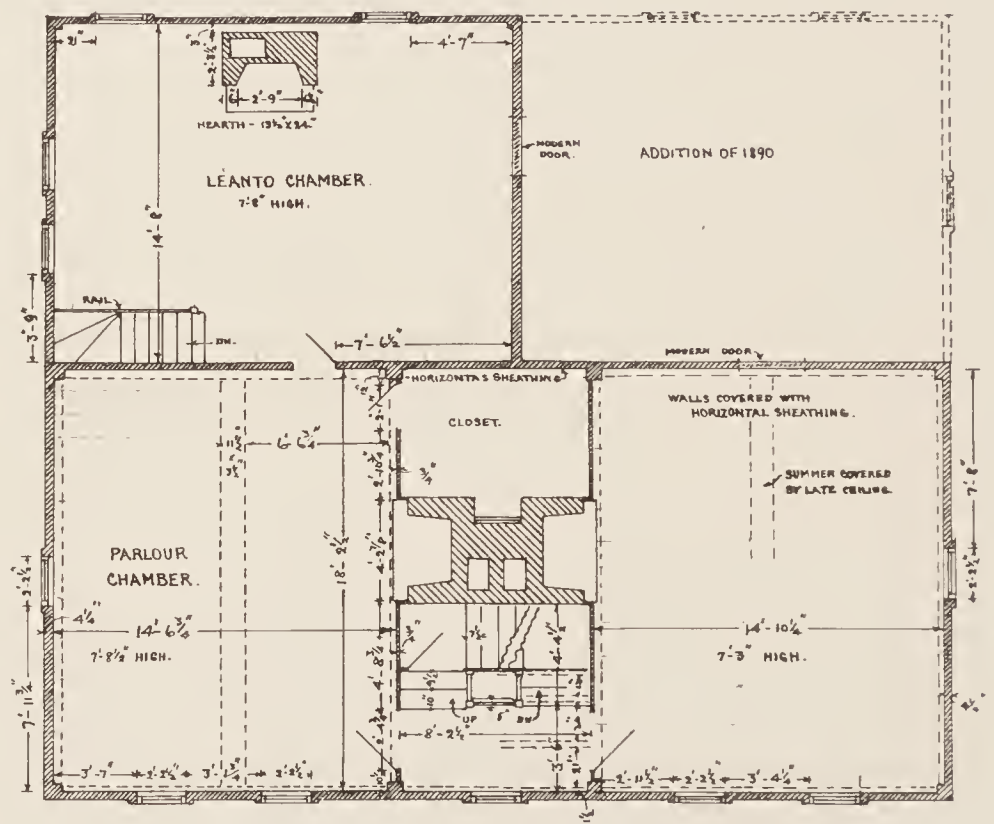
WEST END OF HOUSE - SHOWING LEANTO AS AT PRESENT - DATING FROM CIRC. 1800.



EAST END - SHOWING ARRANGEMENT OF LEANTOS - 1800 - 1890.



PLAN OF FIRST FLOOR -

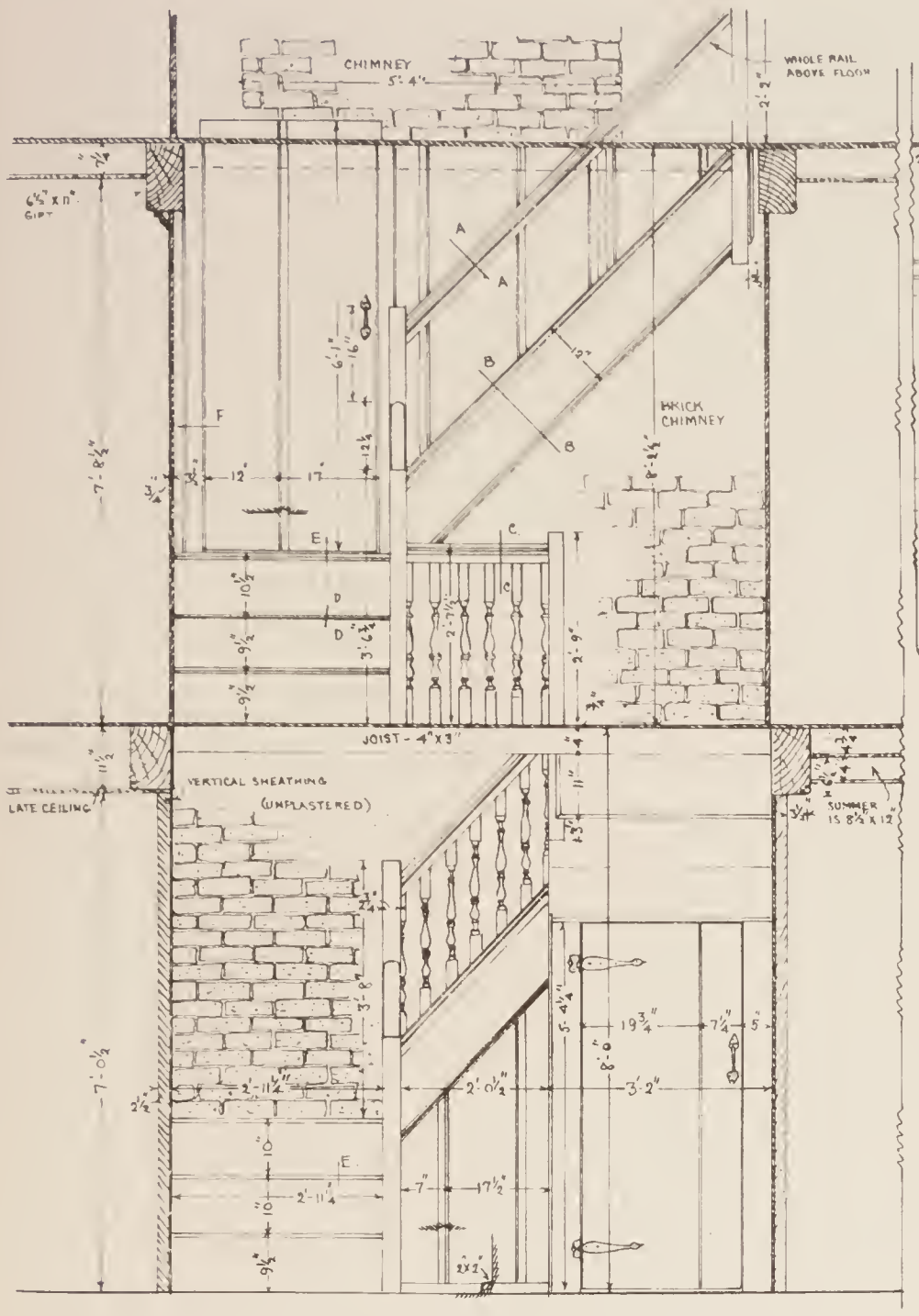


PLAN OF SECOND FLOOR -

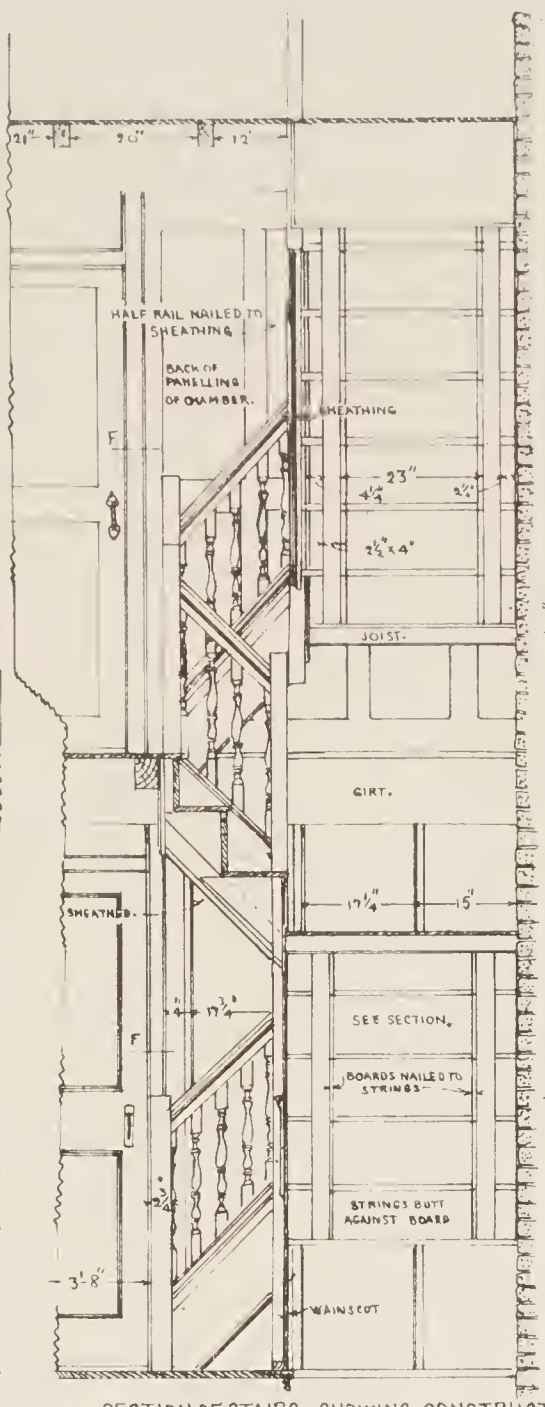
HOUSE BUILT ABOUT 1714- LEANTO ADDED SOON AFTER.

THE BENJAMIN THOMPSON HOUSE.
(THE BIRTH PLACE OF COUNT RUMFORD.)
NORTH WOBURN, MASS.

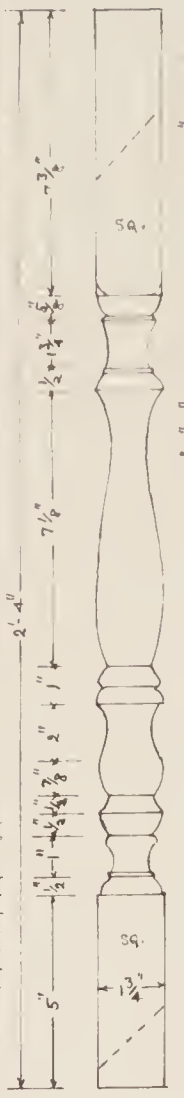
PLATE 22



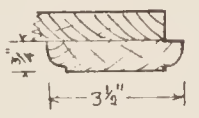
STAIRWAY IN FRONT ENTRY.



SECTION OF STAIRS - SHOWING CONSTRUCTION.
SOFFIT OF STAIRS ABOVE AND BELOW SECOND FLOOR IS OPEN AND FRAMING SHOWS.

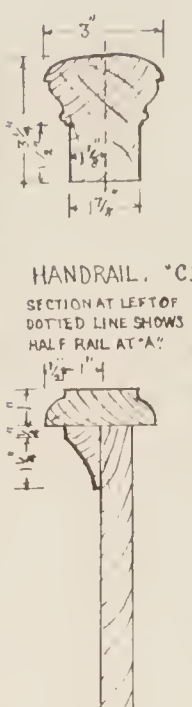


BALUSTERS.

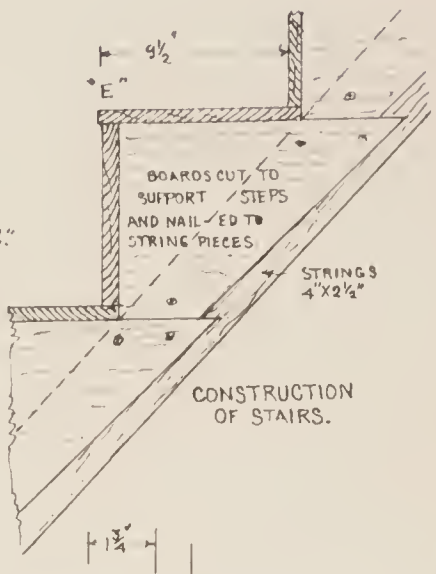


TRIM AT "F."

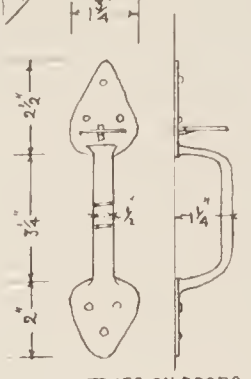
"D." NOSING.



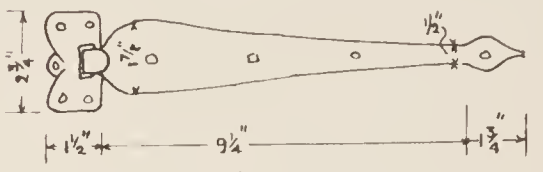
STRING. "B."



CONSTRUCTION OF STAIRS.

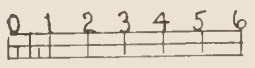


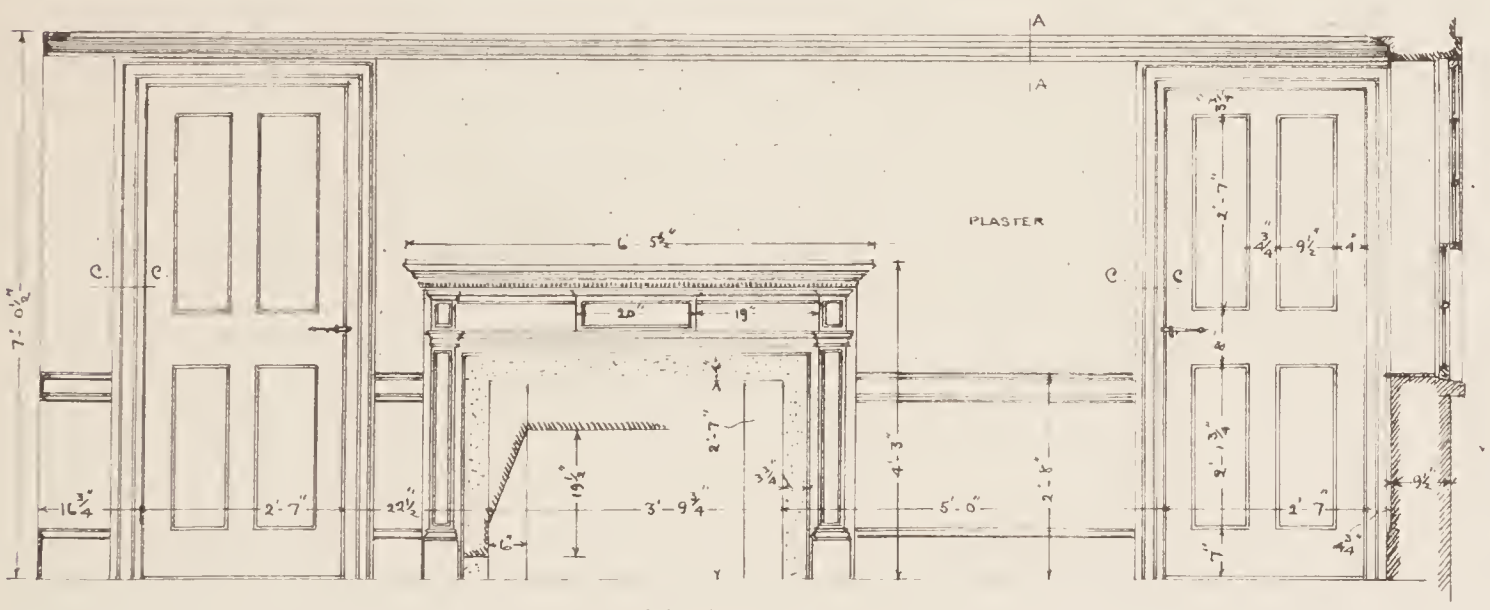
LATCHES ON DOORS.



HINGES.

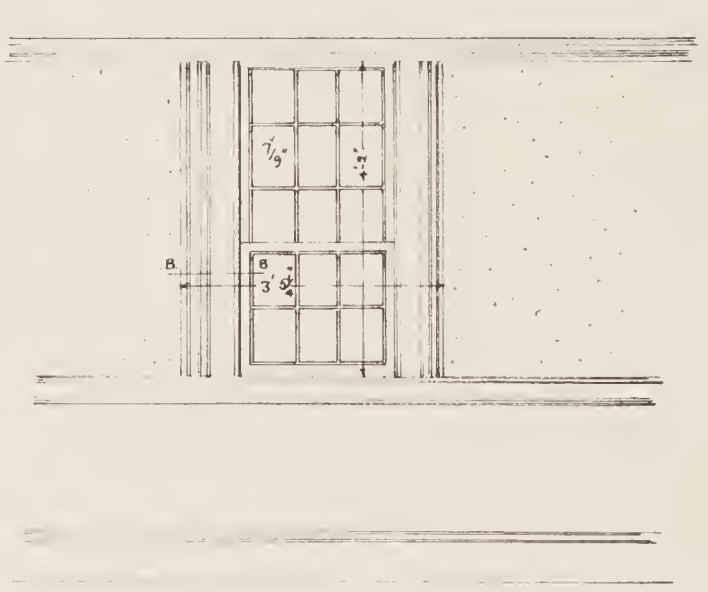
SCALE OF DETAILS





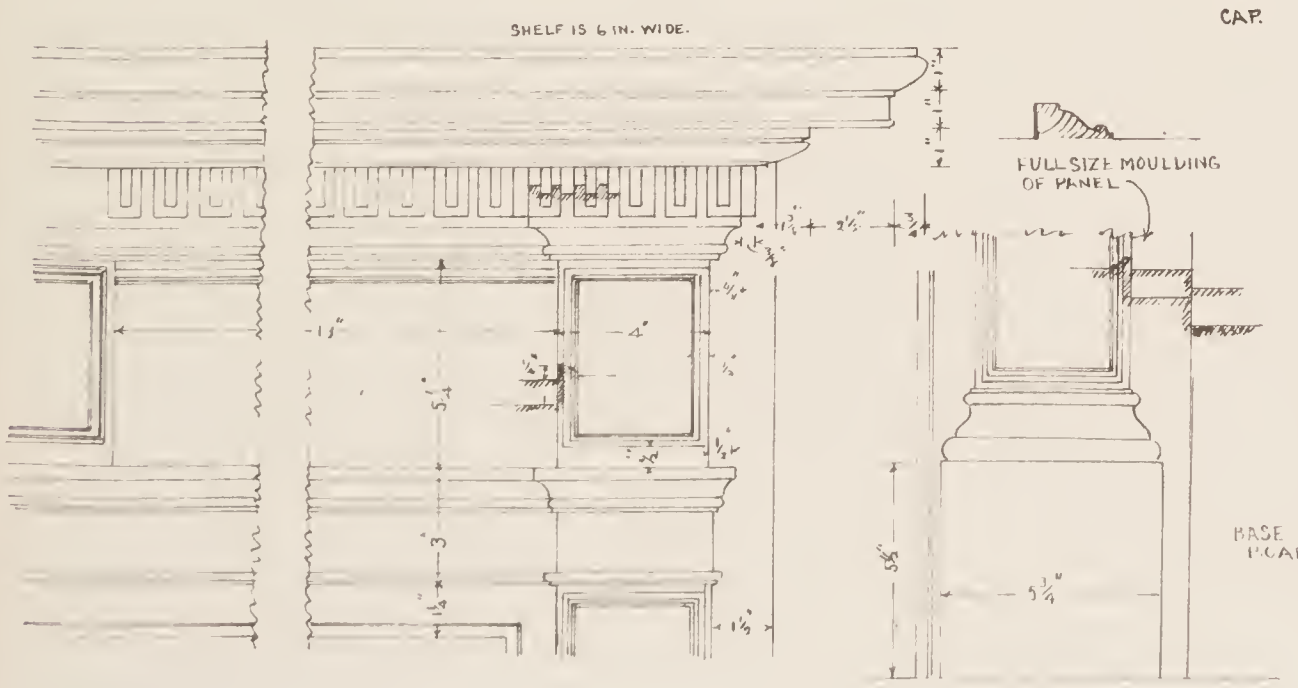
EAST SIDE OF PARLOUR

THE WOODWORK IN THIS ROOM DATES FROM ABOUT 1800.

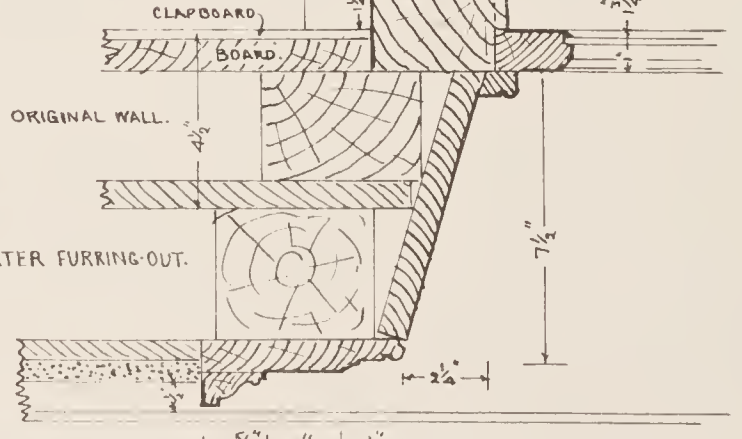


WINDOWS

DETAILS OF MANTLE.

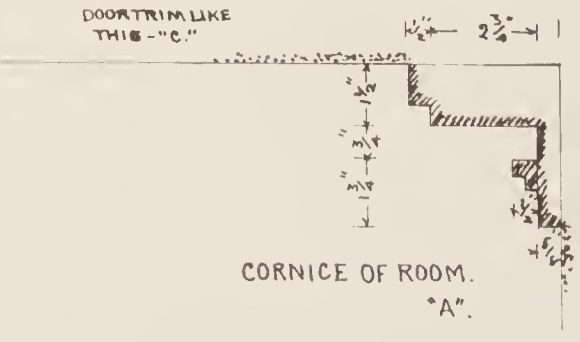


FULL SIZE MOULDING OF PANEL



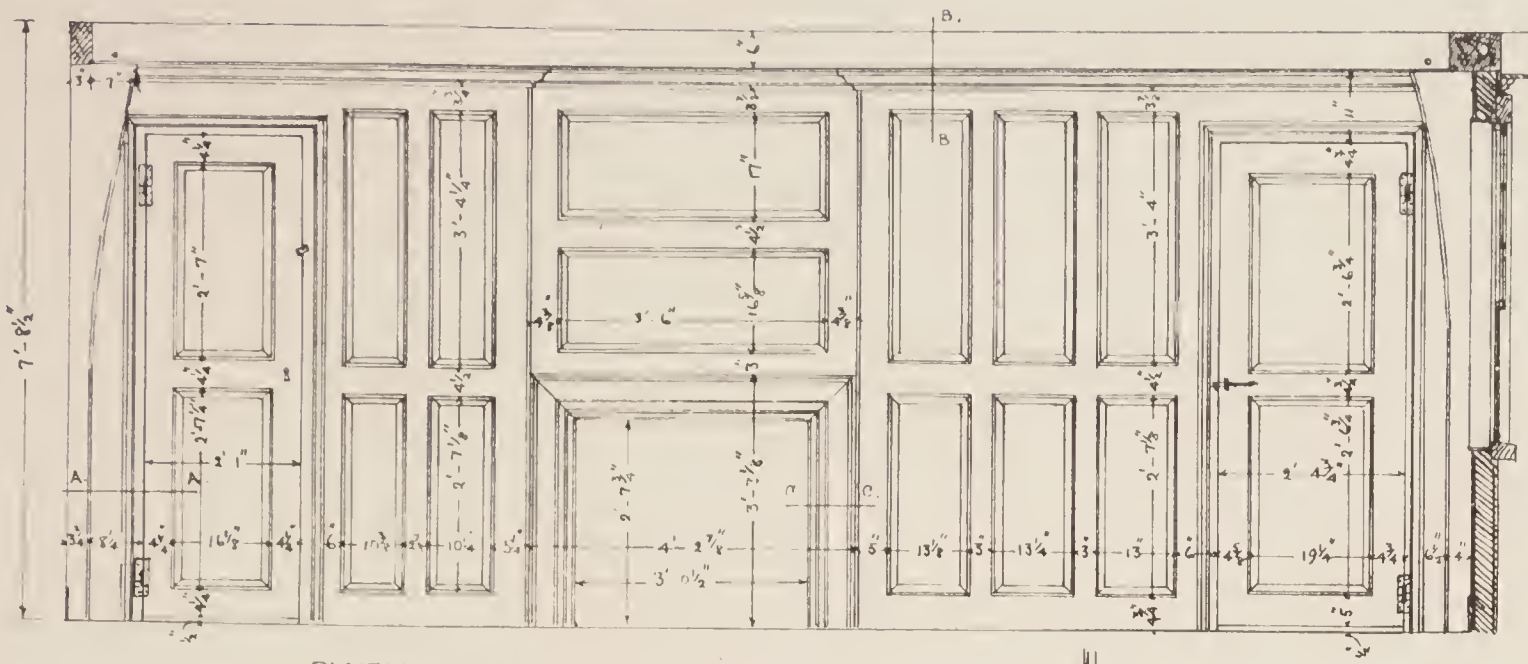
SECTION OF WINDOWS - "B."

DOOR TRIM LIKE THIS - "C."

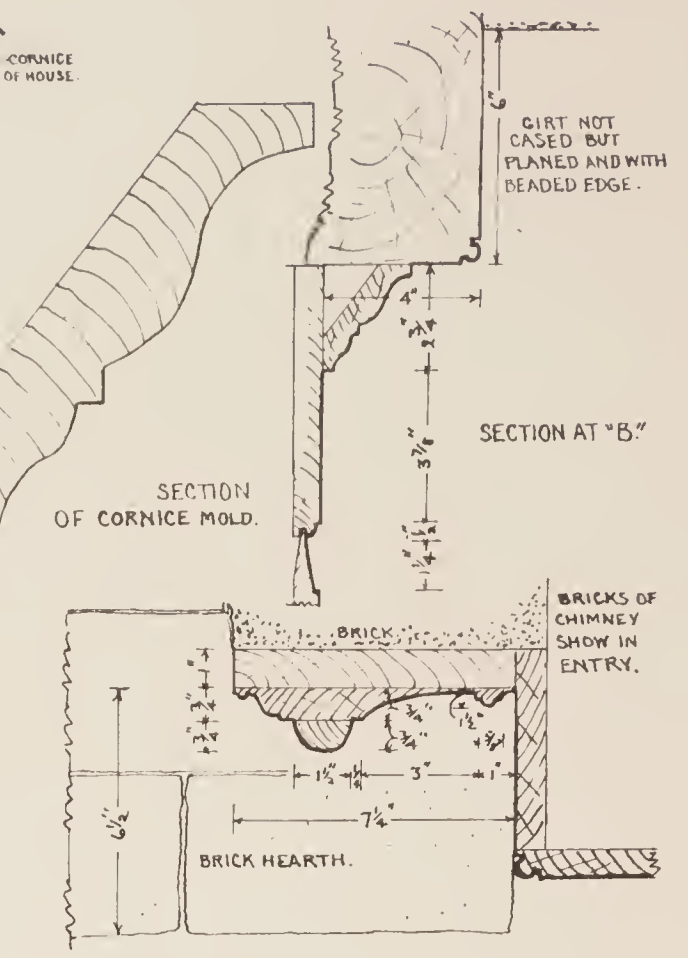


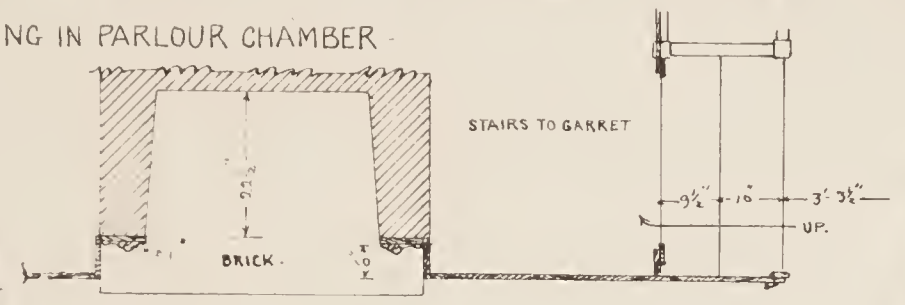
CORNICE OF ROOM. "A".

PLATE 23

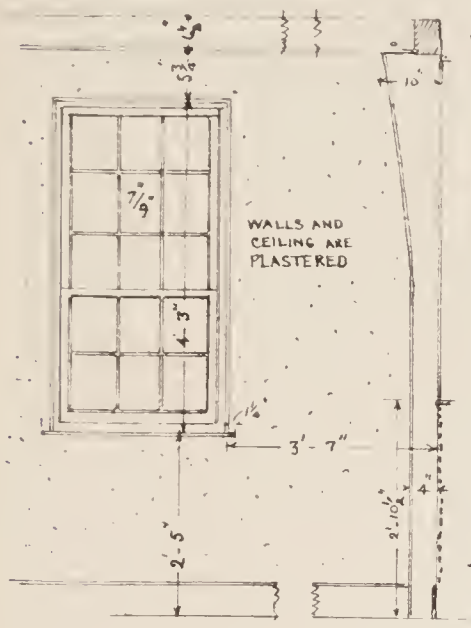


PANELLING IN PARLOUR CHAMBER.

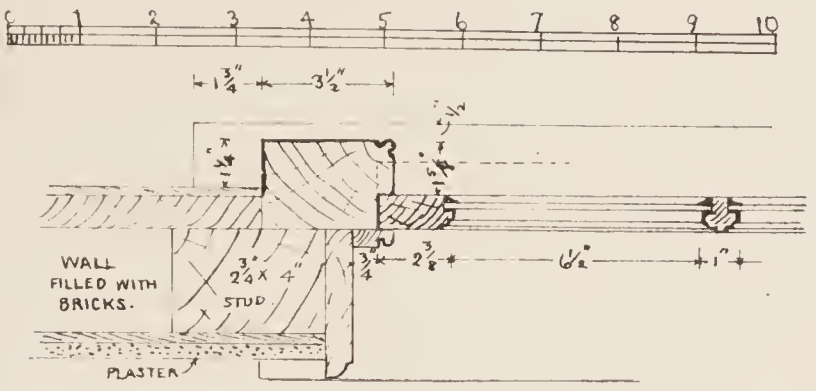




NOTE DIFFERENT DIRECTIONS IN WHICH THE SHOULDERS OF THE POSTS ARE TURNED.

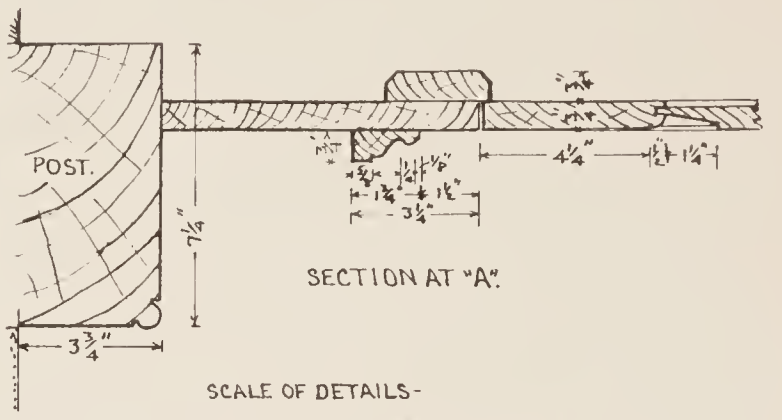


PLAN OF FIREPLACE.



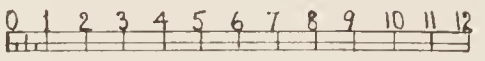
WINDOWS IN SOUTH WALL.
IN WEST WALL 2'-10½ FROM FLOOR

BASE BOARD.



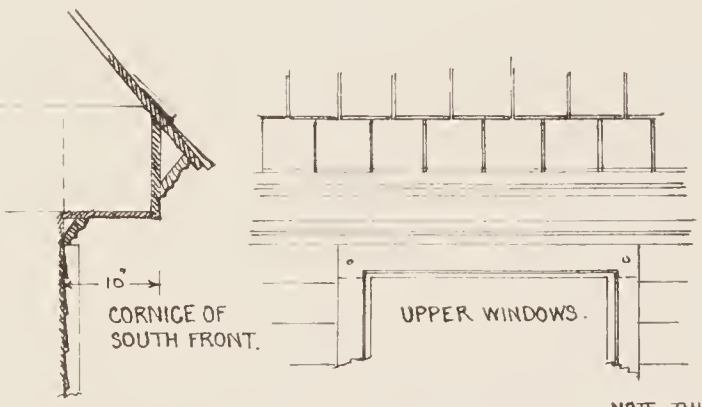
SECTION AT "A".

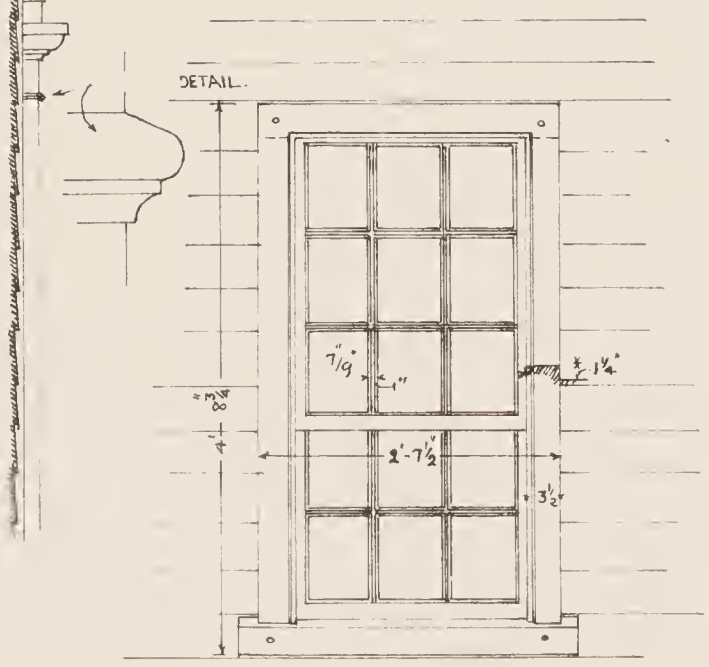
SCALE OF DETAILS-



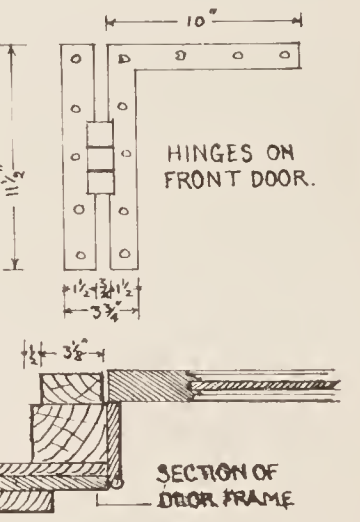
FRONT DOORWAY.

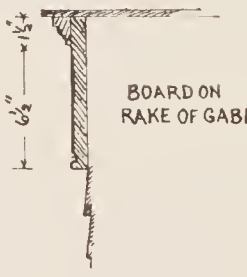
THIS DOOR AND THE TRANSOM ABOVE ARE NOT AS OLD AS THE HOUSE.

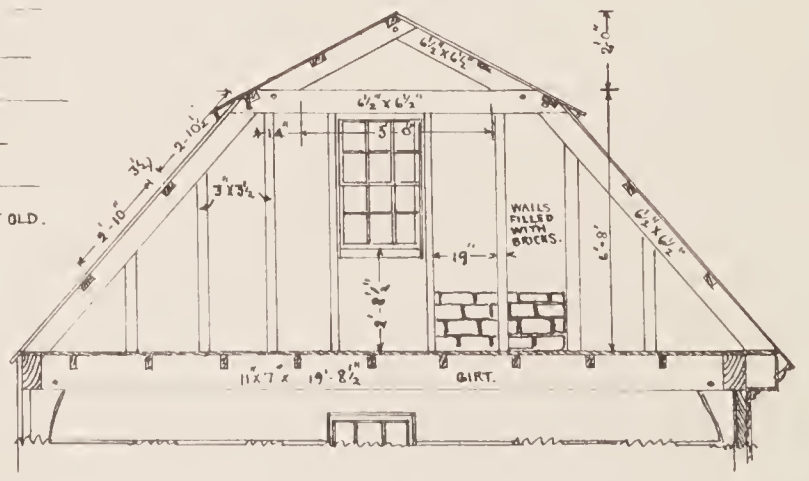




NOTE. WINDOW SASH NOW IN THE HOUSE ARE NOT OLD. OLD ONES SHOWN IN THESE DRAWINGS.

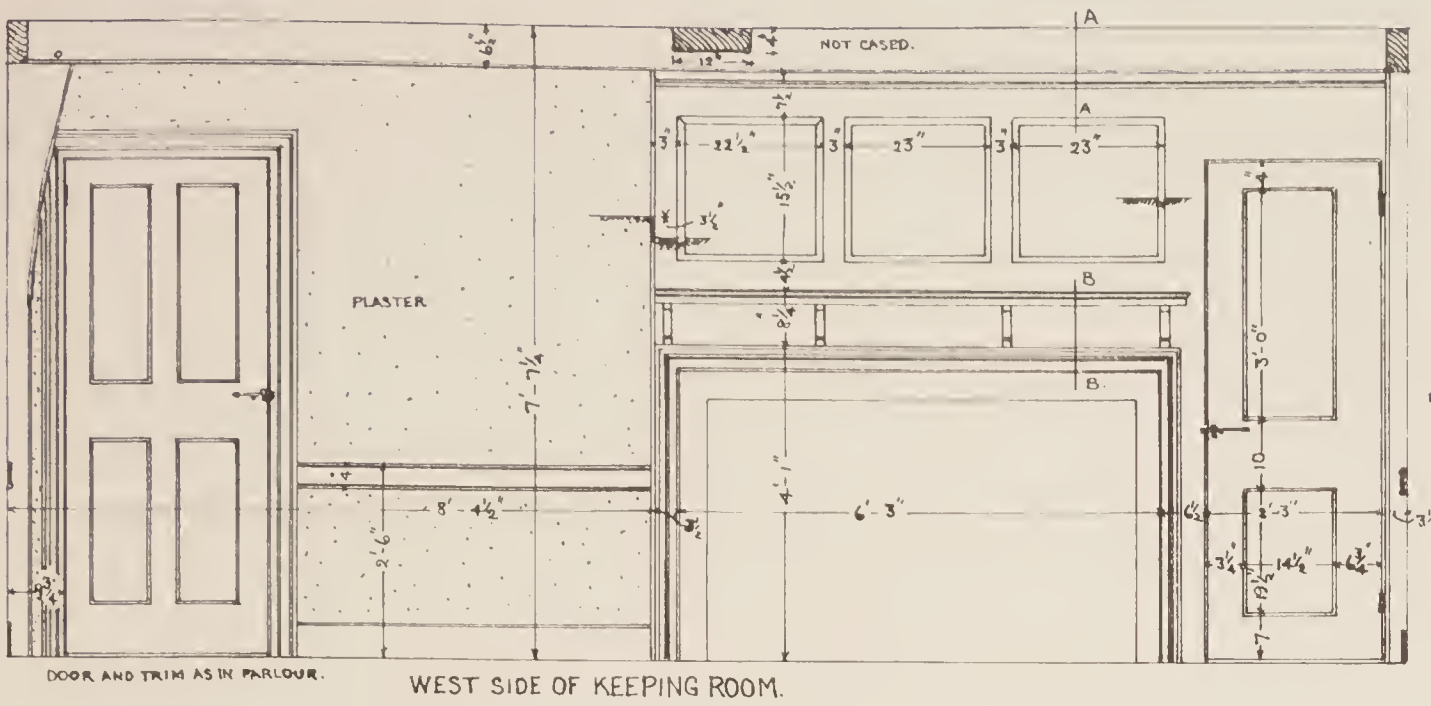




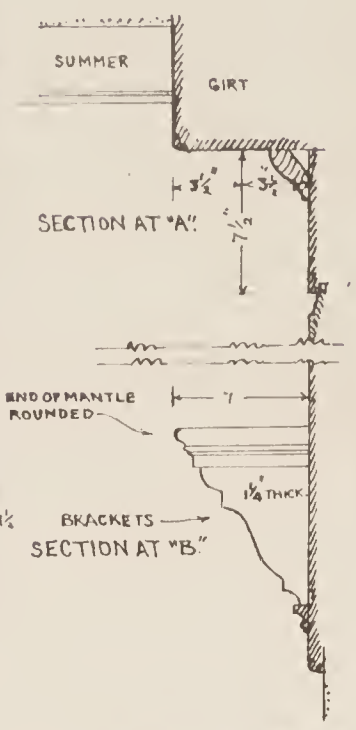


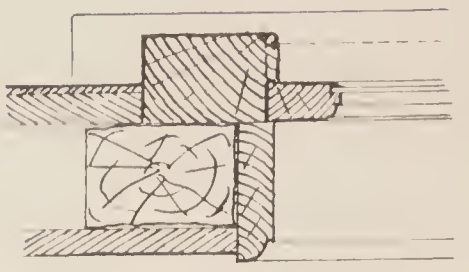
SECTION THROUGH EAST END OF GARRET SHOWING FRAMING OF ROOF-
SIX TRUSSES-ONE OVER EACH GIRT AND SUMMER.

PLATE 24

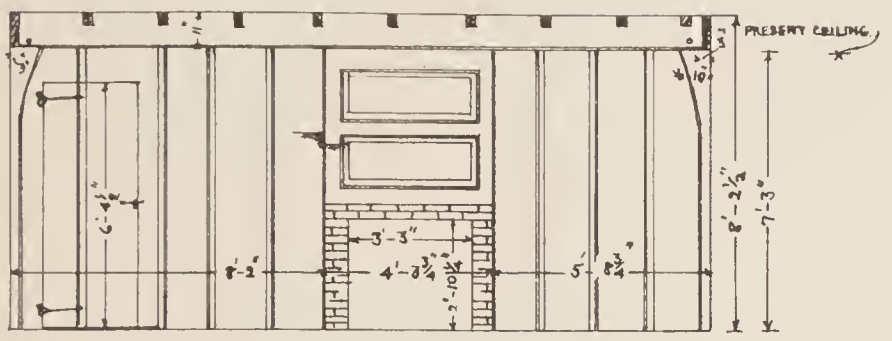


WEST SIDE OF KEEPING ROOM.



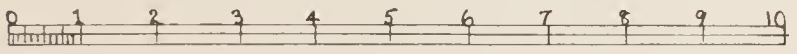


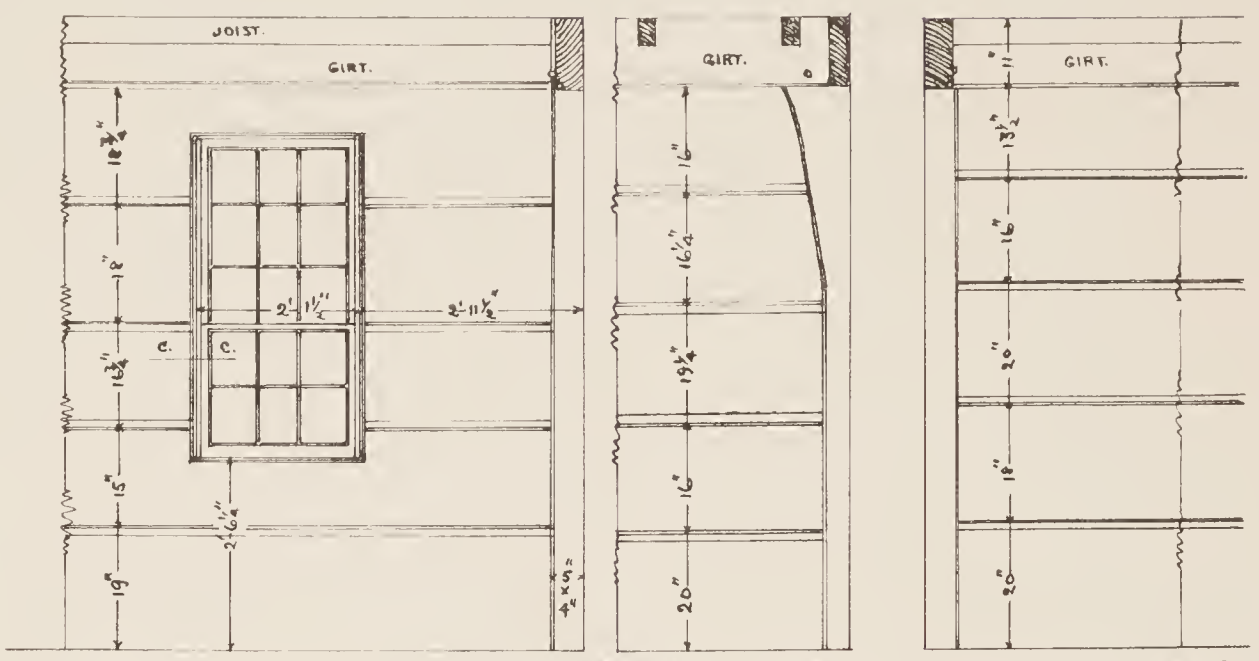
WINDOW TRIM. - "C."



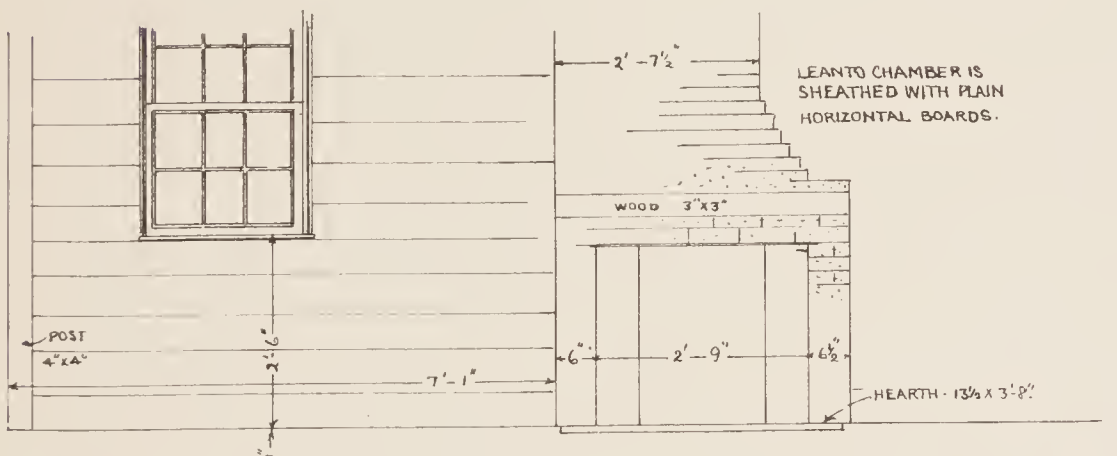
WEST SIDE OF EAST CHAMBER -

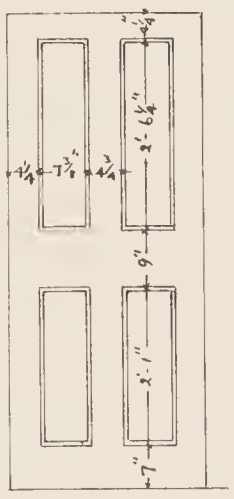
NOTE - THIS SHEATHING HAS BEEN ALTERED AND DOES NOT LOOK OLD. THIS SHOWS ITS PROBABLE APPEARANCE. TIMBERS PLANED AND BEADED. SUMMER AND JOISTS NOW COVERED WITH CEILING. ROOM NOW 7'-3" HIGH.



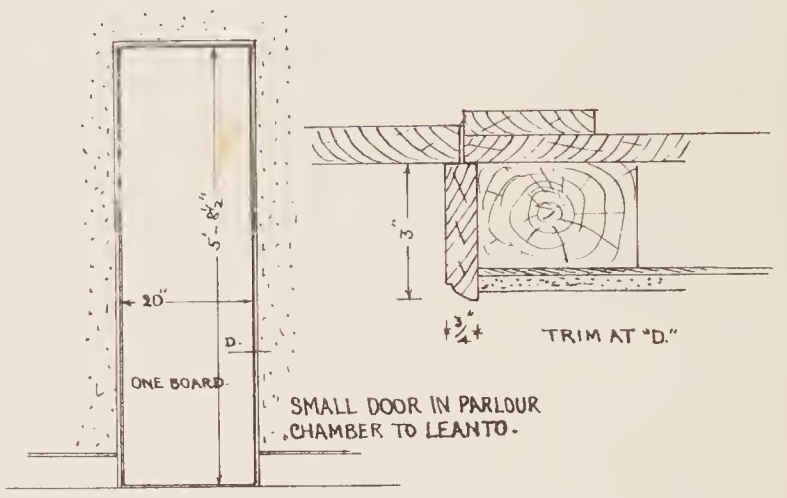


WAINSCOT SHEATHING IN EAST CHAMBER.

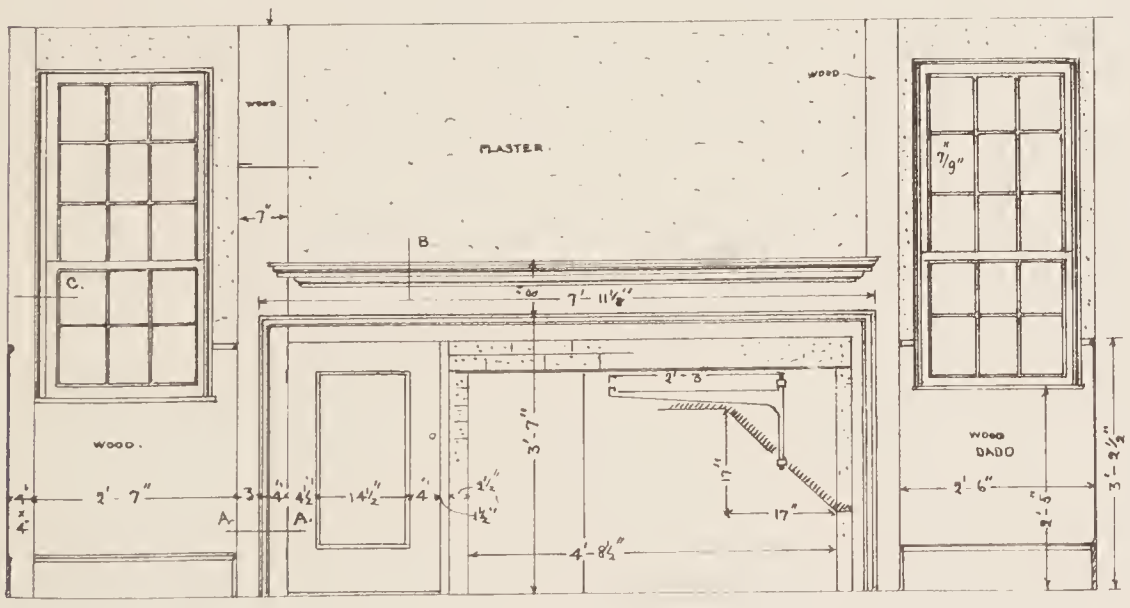


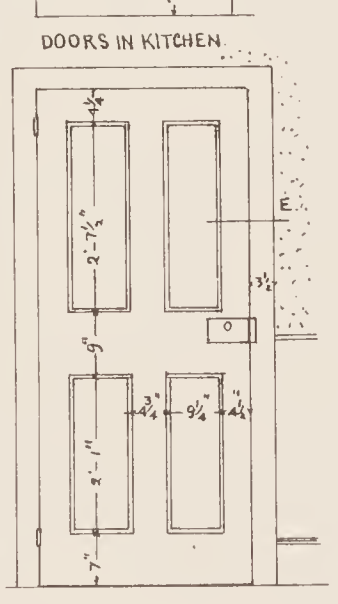


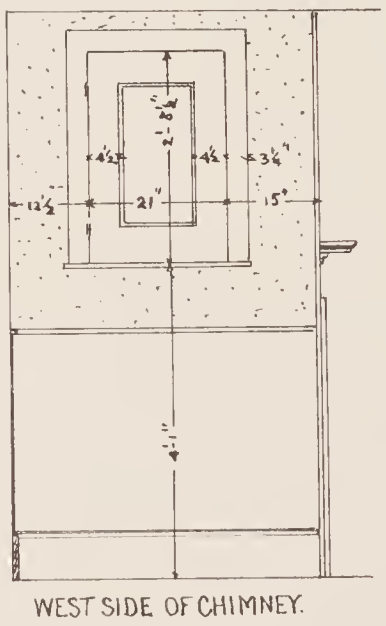
DOORS IN KITCHEN.



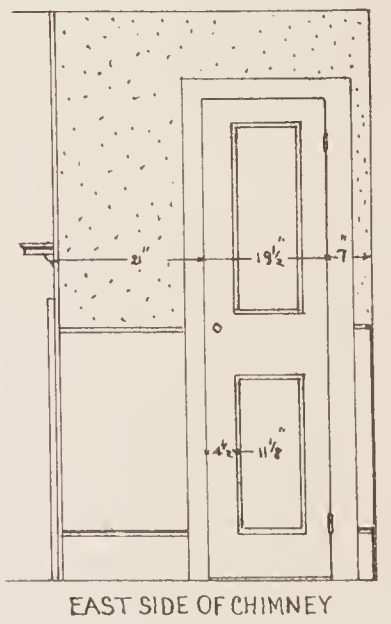
TRIM AT "D."



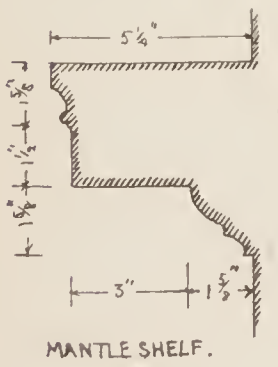


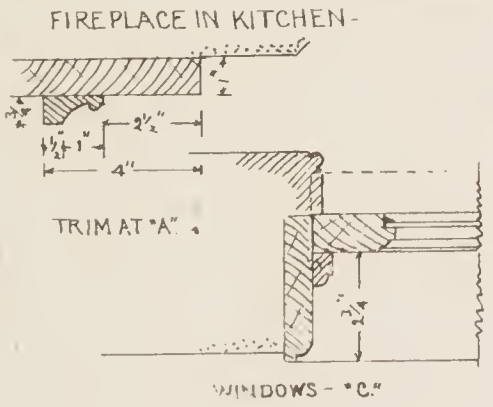


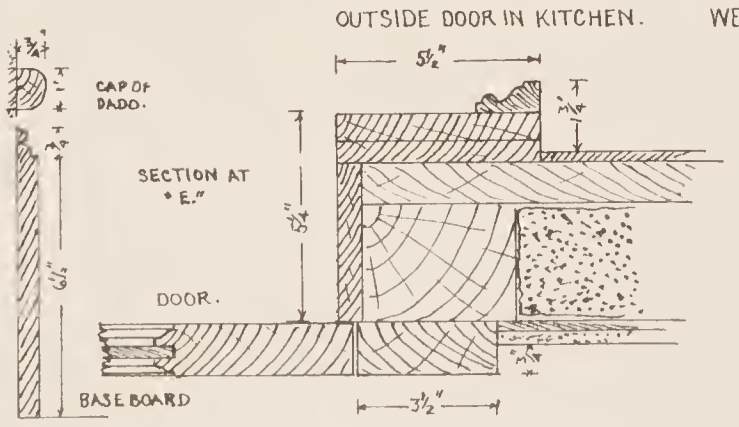
WEST SIDE OF CHIMNEY.

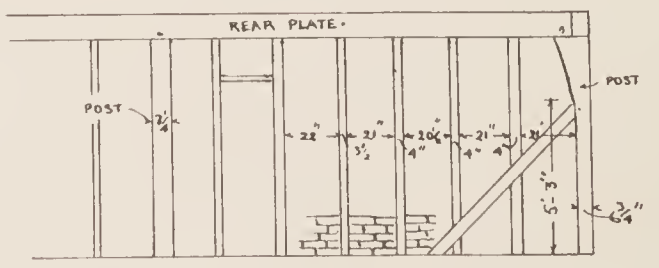


EAST SIDE OF CHIMNEY

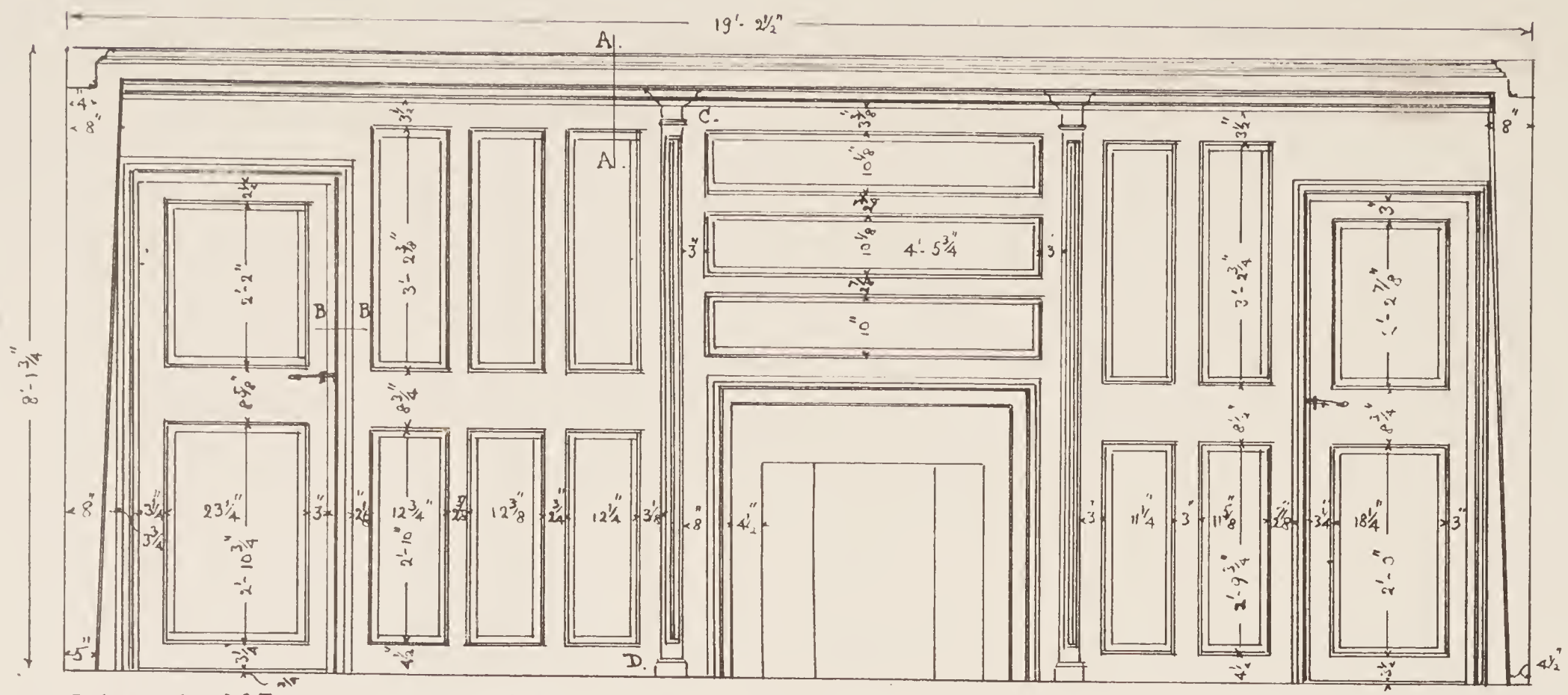






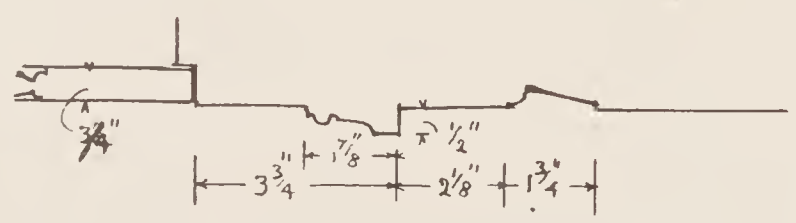


FRAMING OF N.W. CORNER - REAR WALL OF HOUSE - PARLOUR CHAMBER AS SEEN FROM LEANTO.

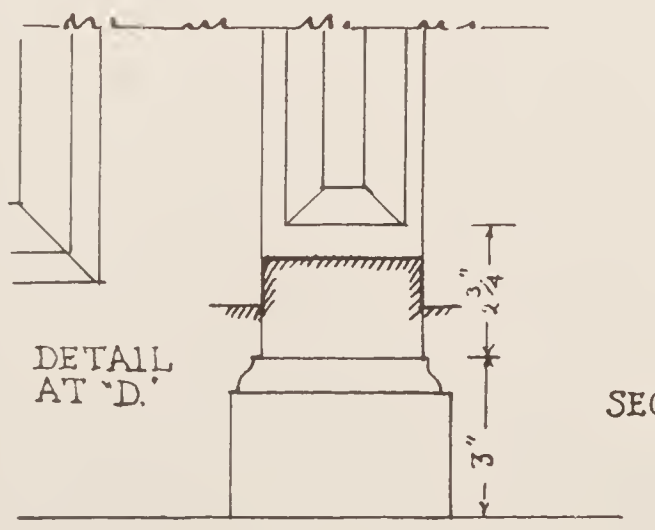


BUILT IN 1735.

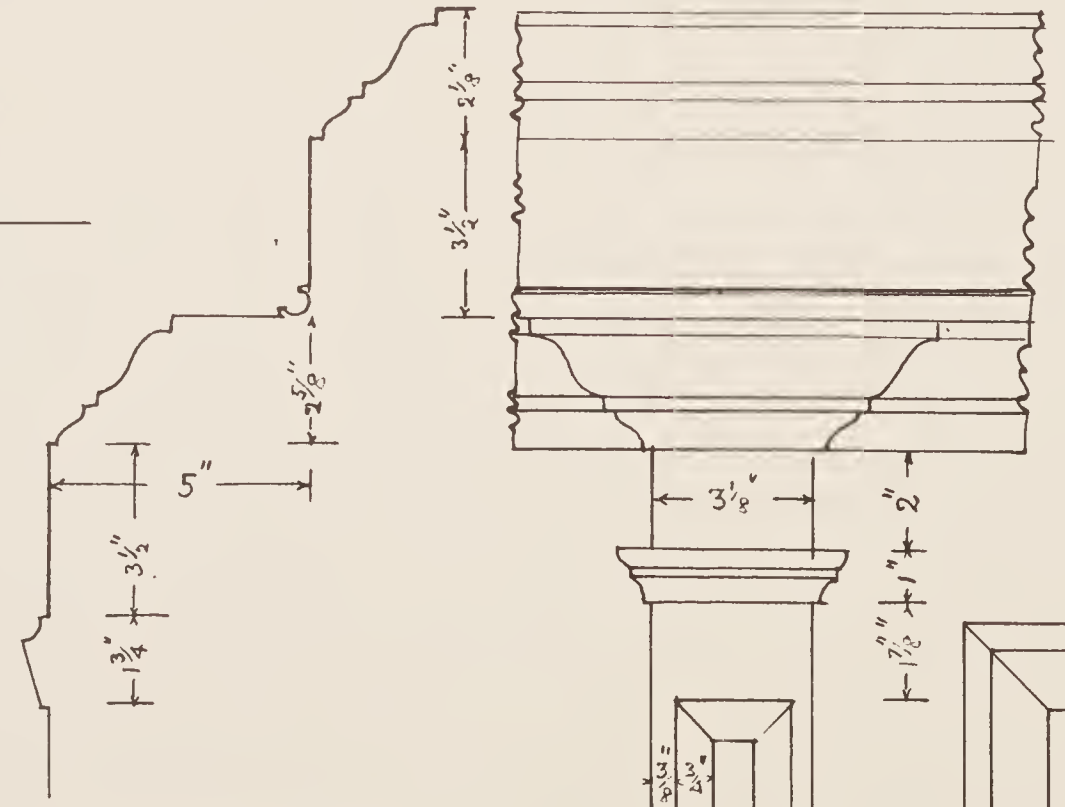
PANELLING IN PARLOUR CHAMBER, BROWN HOUSE, CONCORD, MASS.



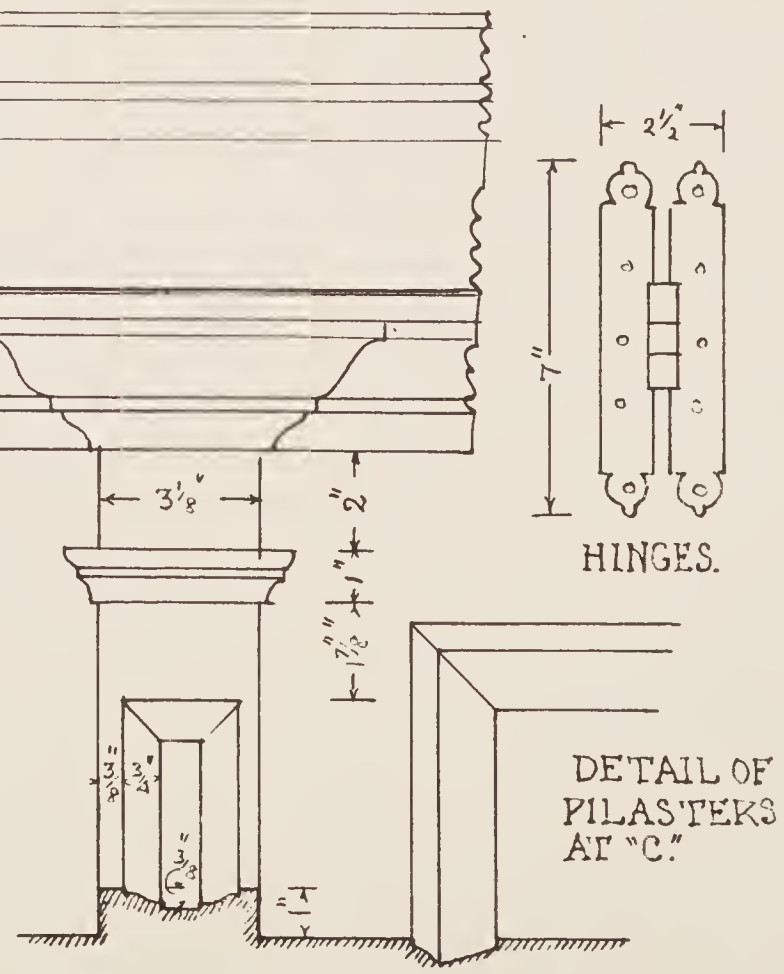
SECTION AT "B."



DETAIL AT "D."

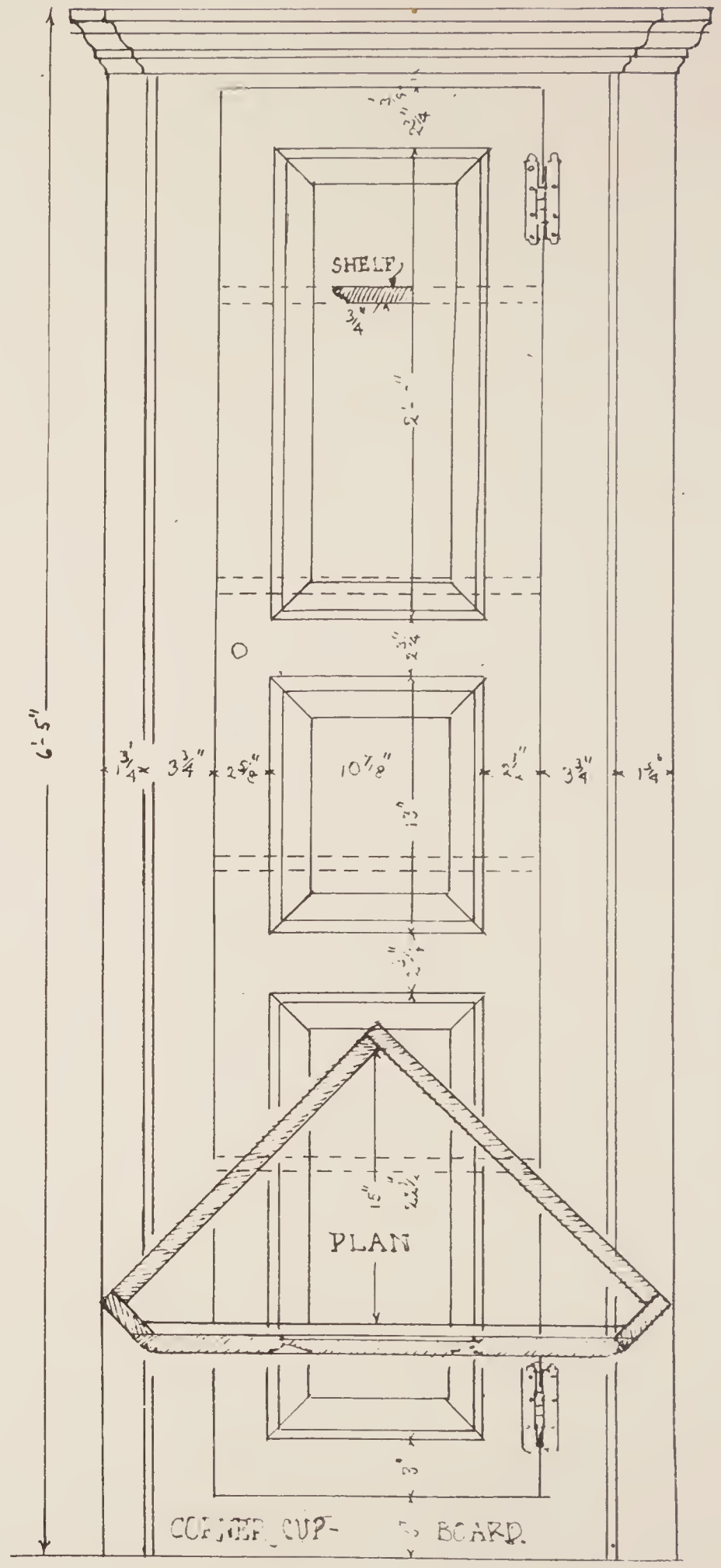


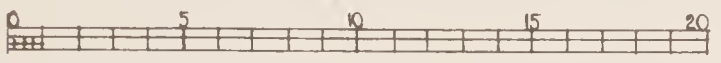
SECTION OF CORNICE AT "A."

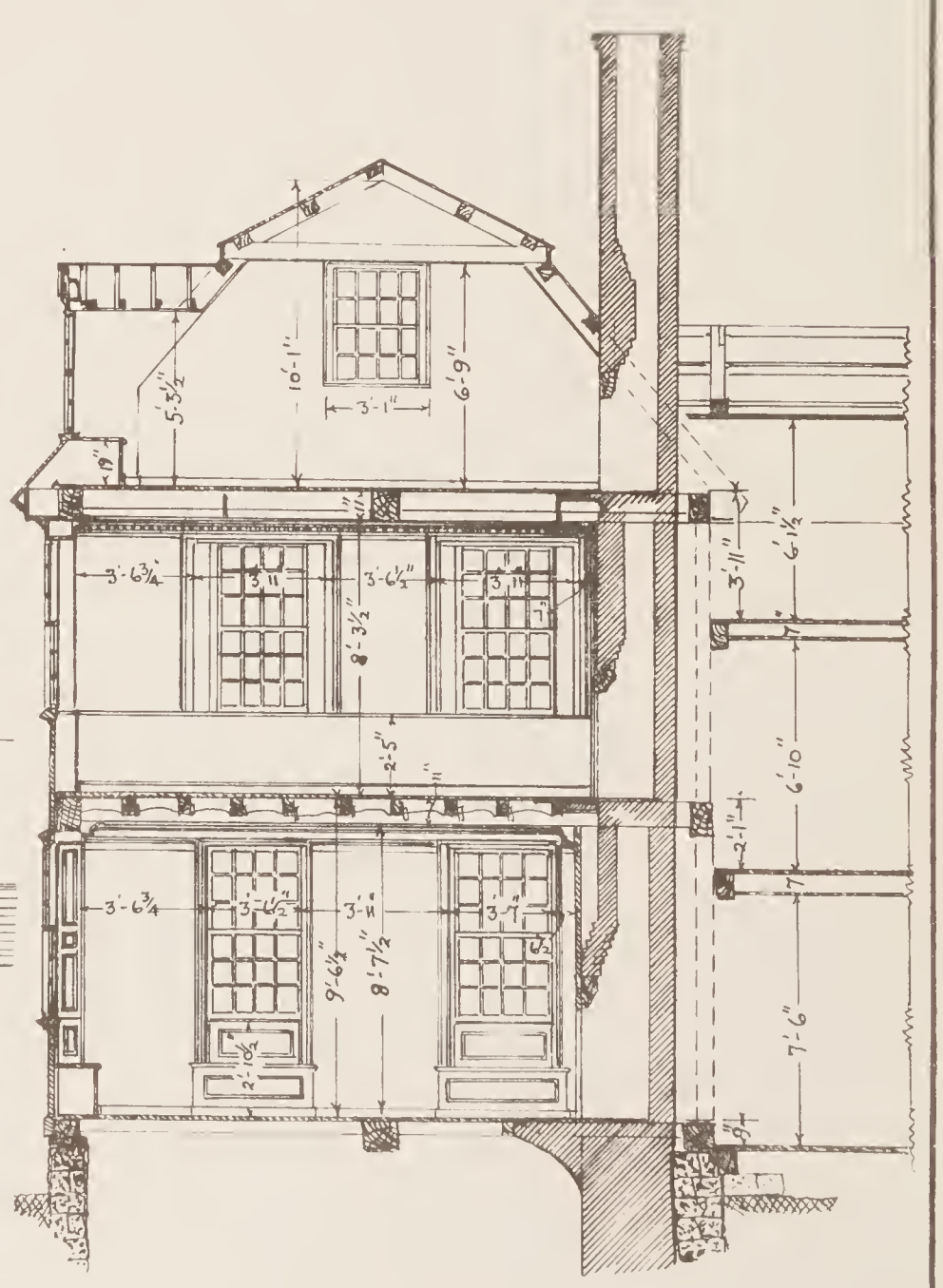


HINGES.

DETAIL OF PILASTERS AT "C."



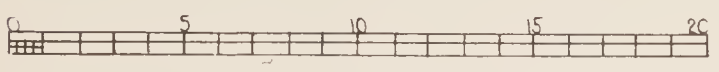
SOUTH FRONT ELEVATION.

EAST ELEVATION.

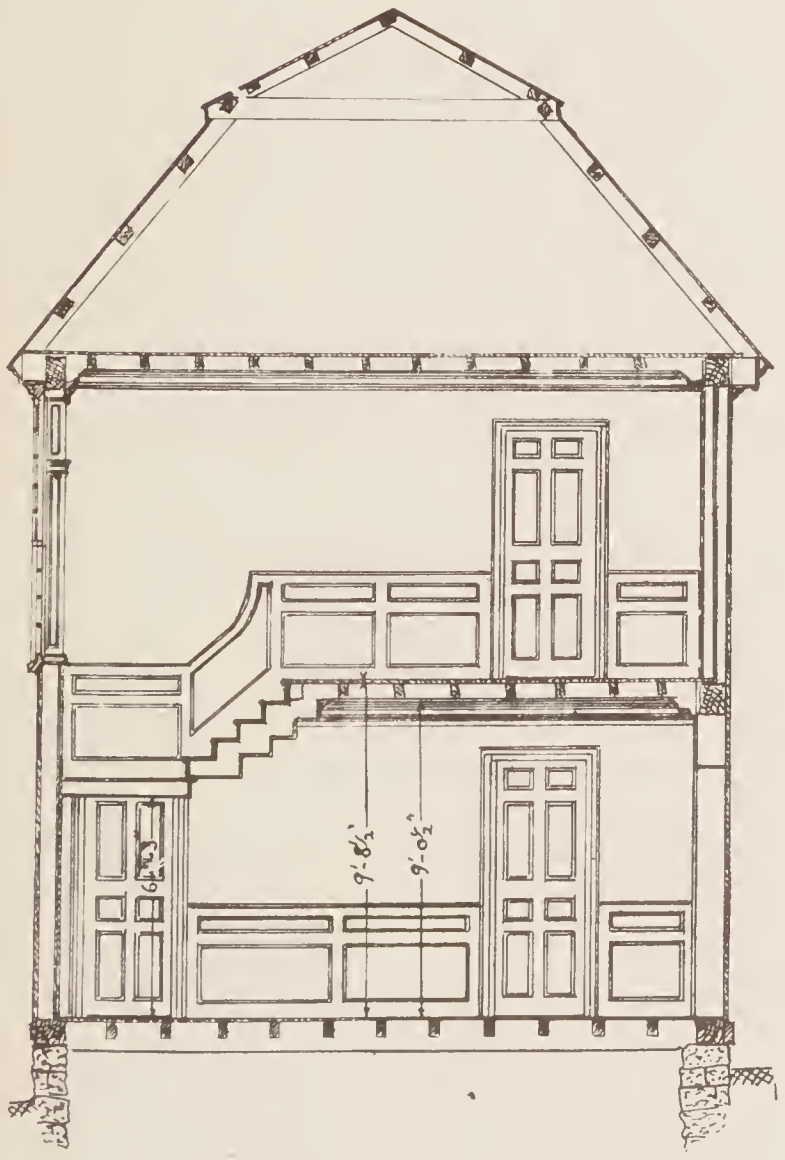


SECTION THROUGH WEST END.

CAPTAIN EDWARD MARRETT HOUSE, CAMBRIDGE, MASS.
BUILT ABOUT 1755-1765.

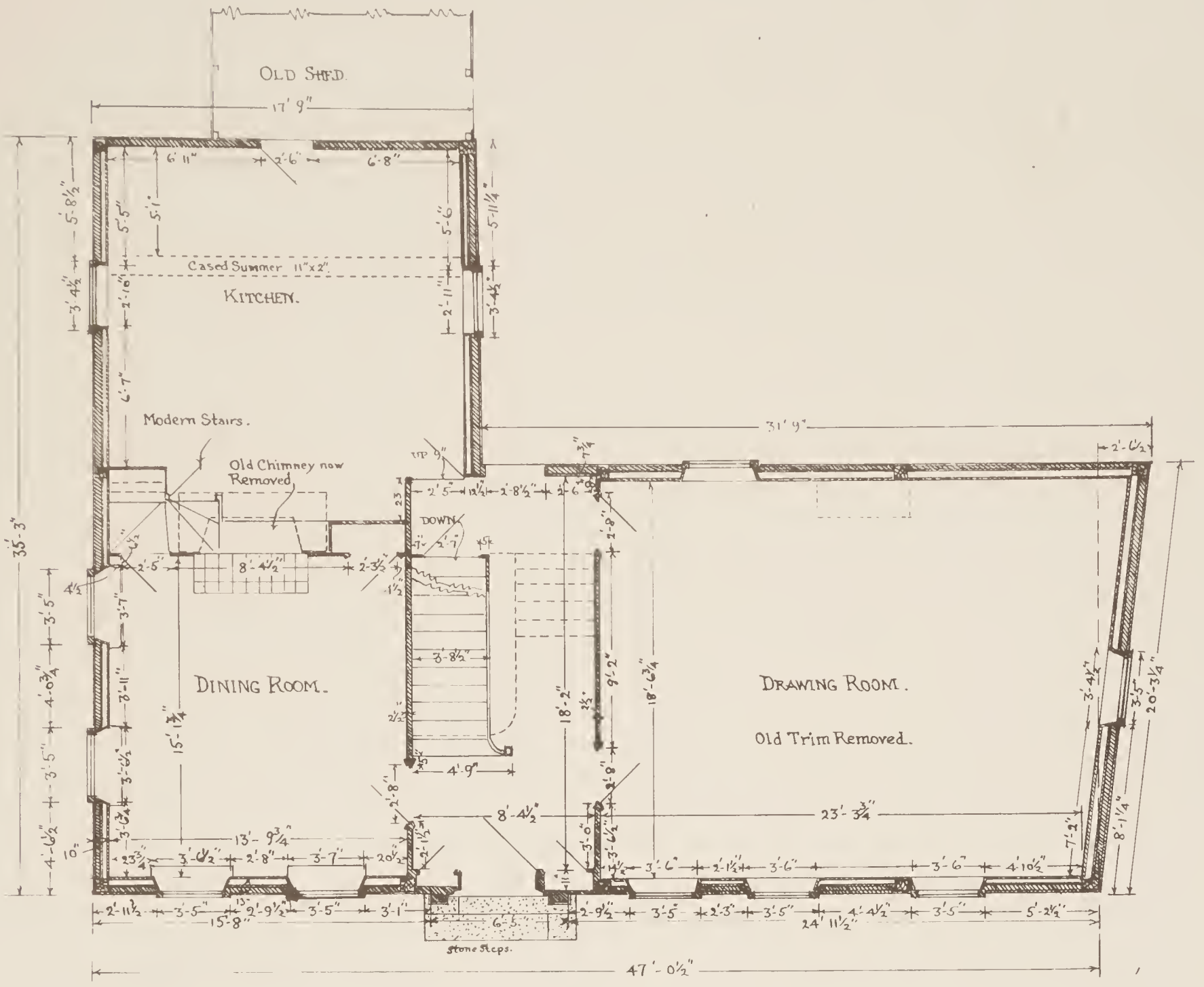
REAR OR NORTH ELEVATION.



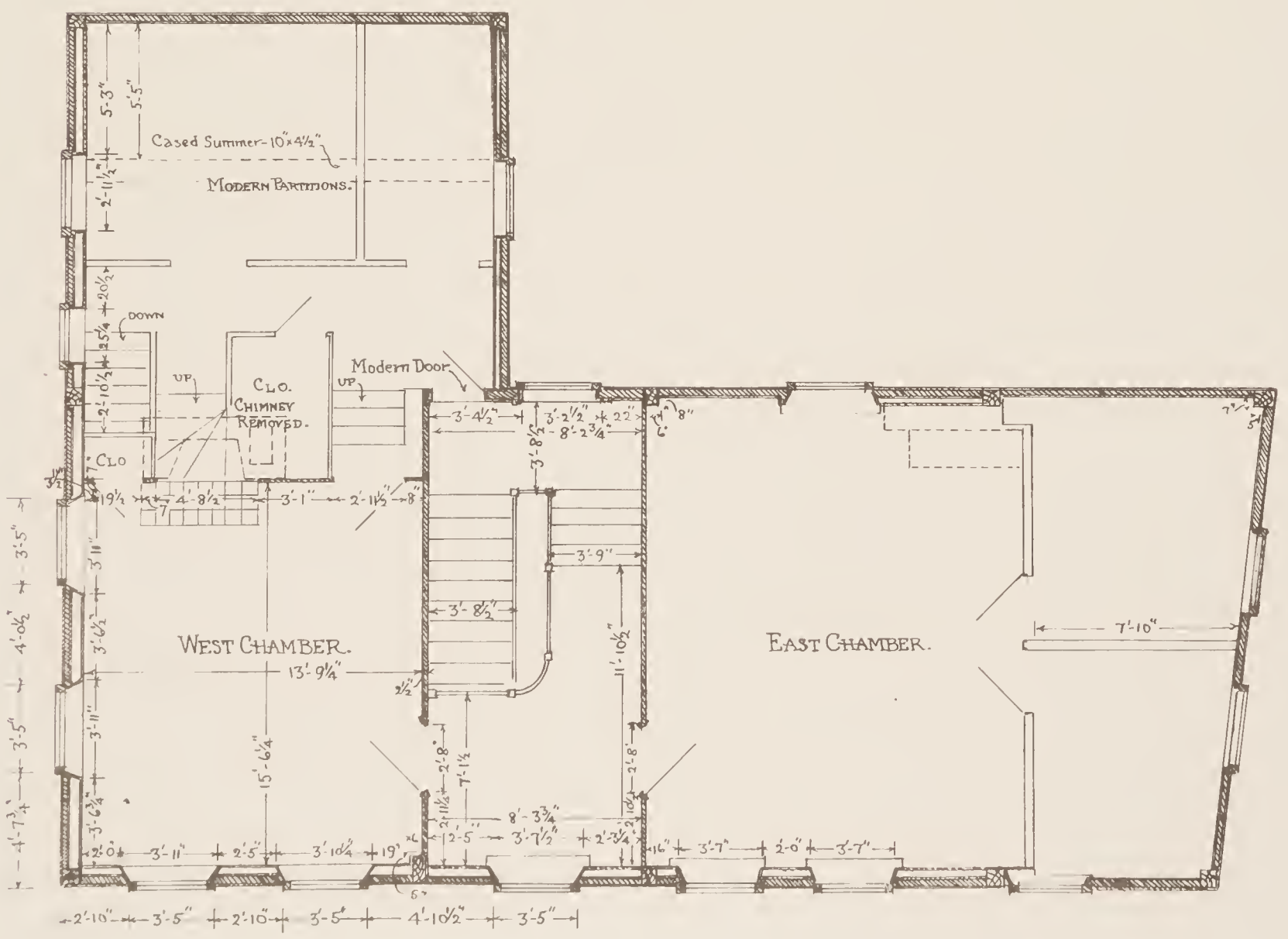


SECTION THROUGH HALL.

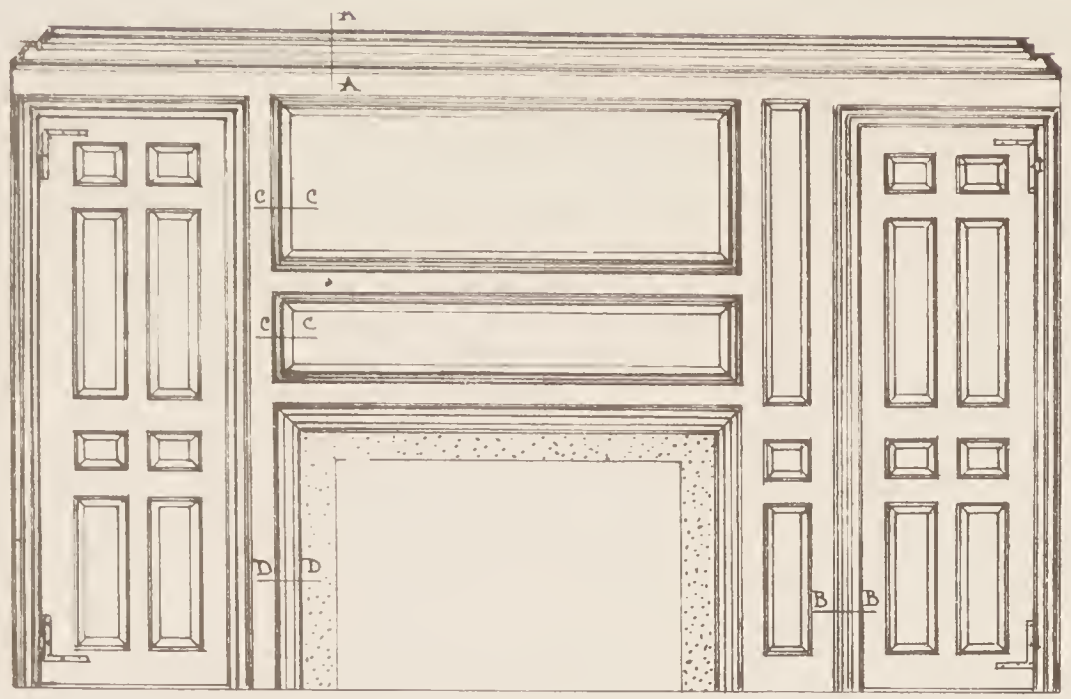
WEST END ELEVATION.



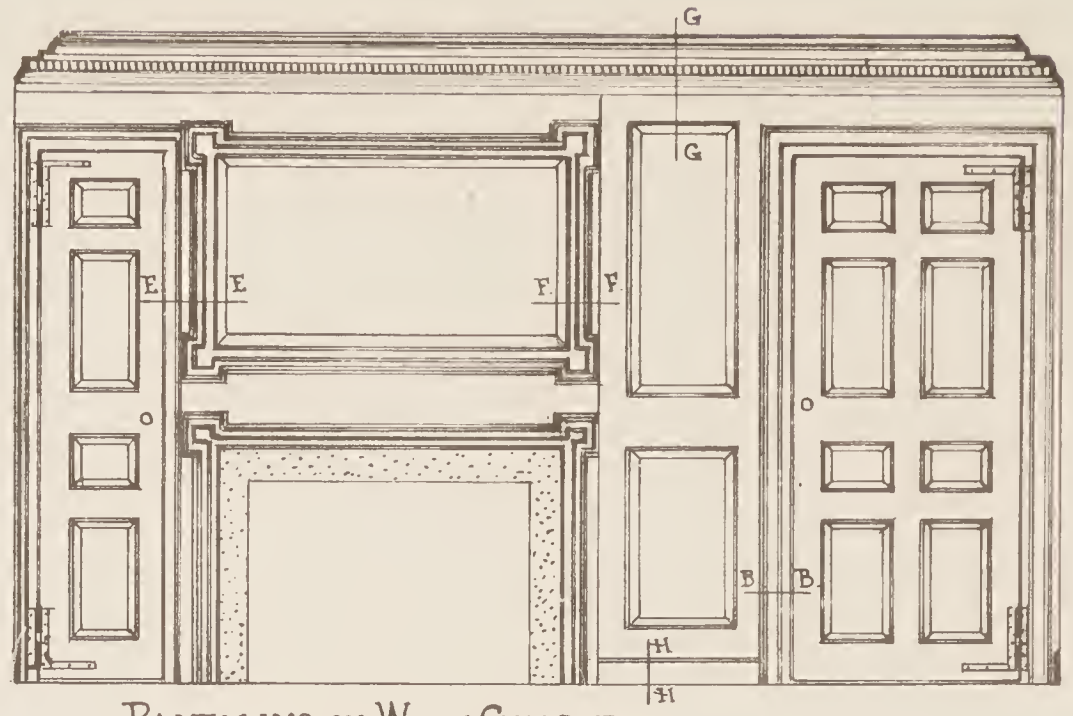
PLAN OF FIRST FLOOR.



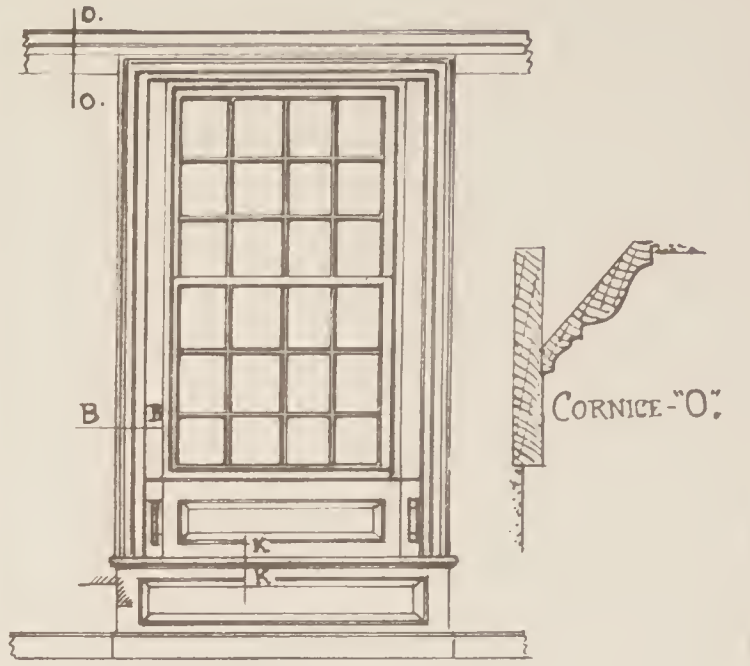
PLAN OF SECOND FLOOR.



PANELLING IN DINING ROOM

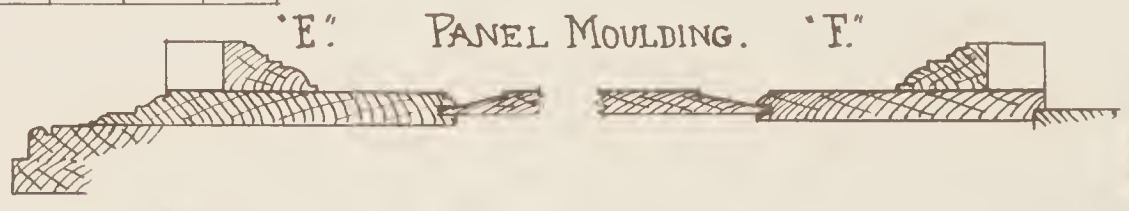


PANELLING IN WEST CHAMBER.

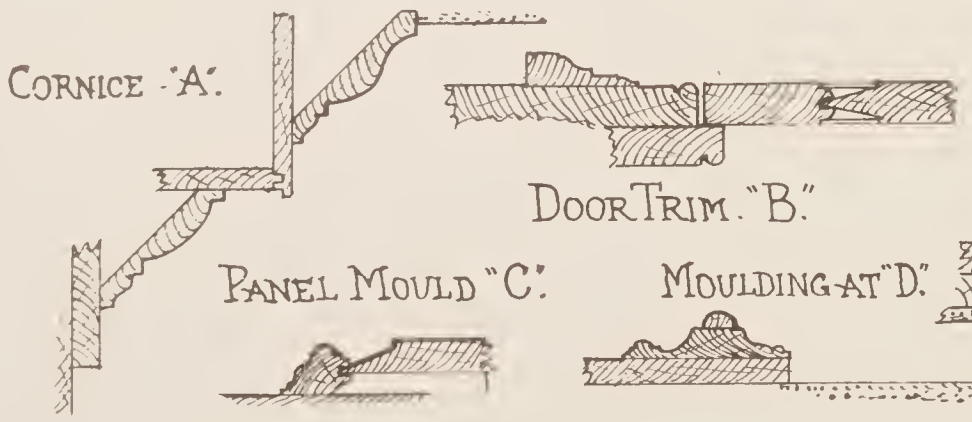


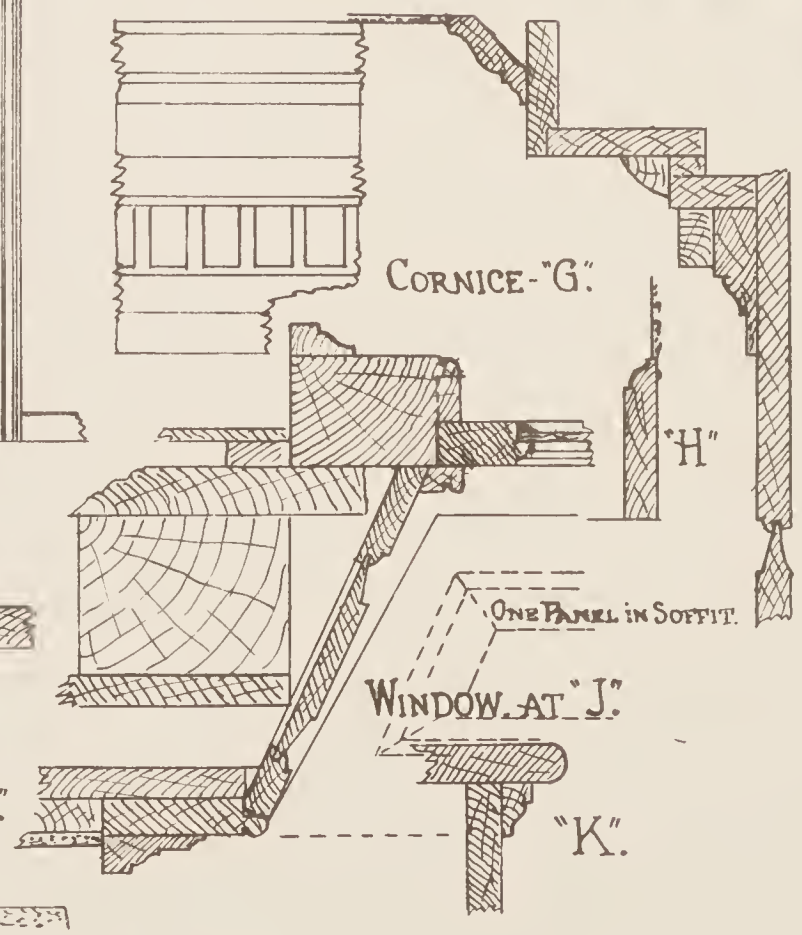
WINDOWS IN EAST CHAMBER.

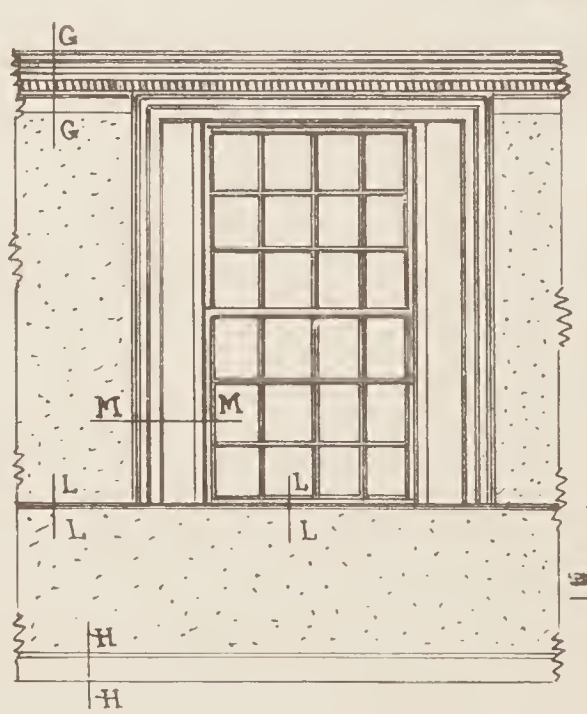
WINDOWS IN DINING ROOM. DOORS.



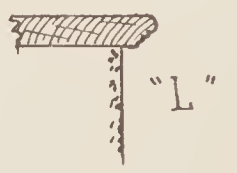
WINDOW SASH - 7"x9" GLASS.





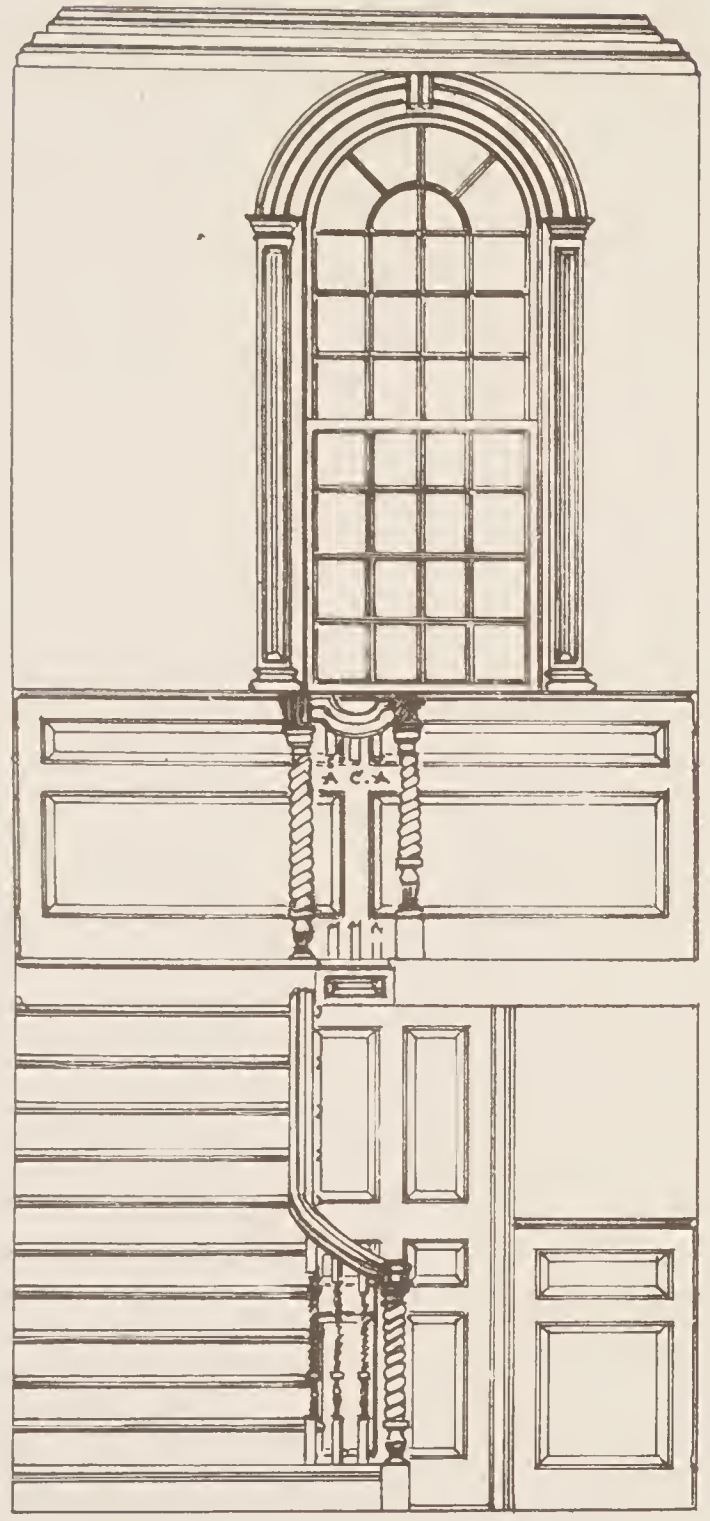


WINDOW AT "M".

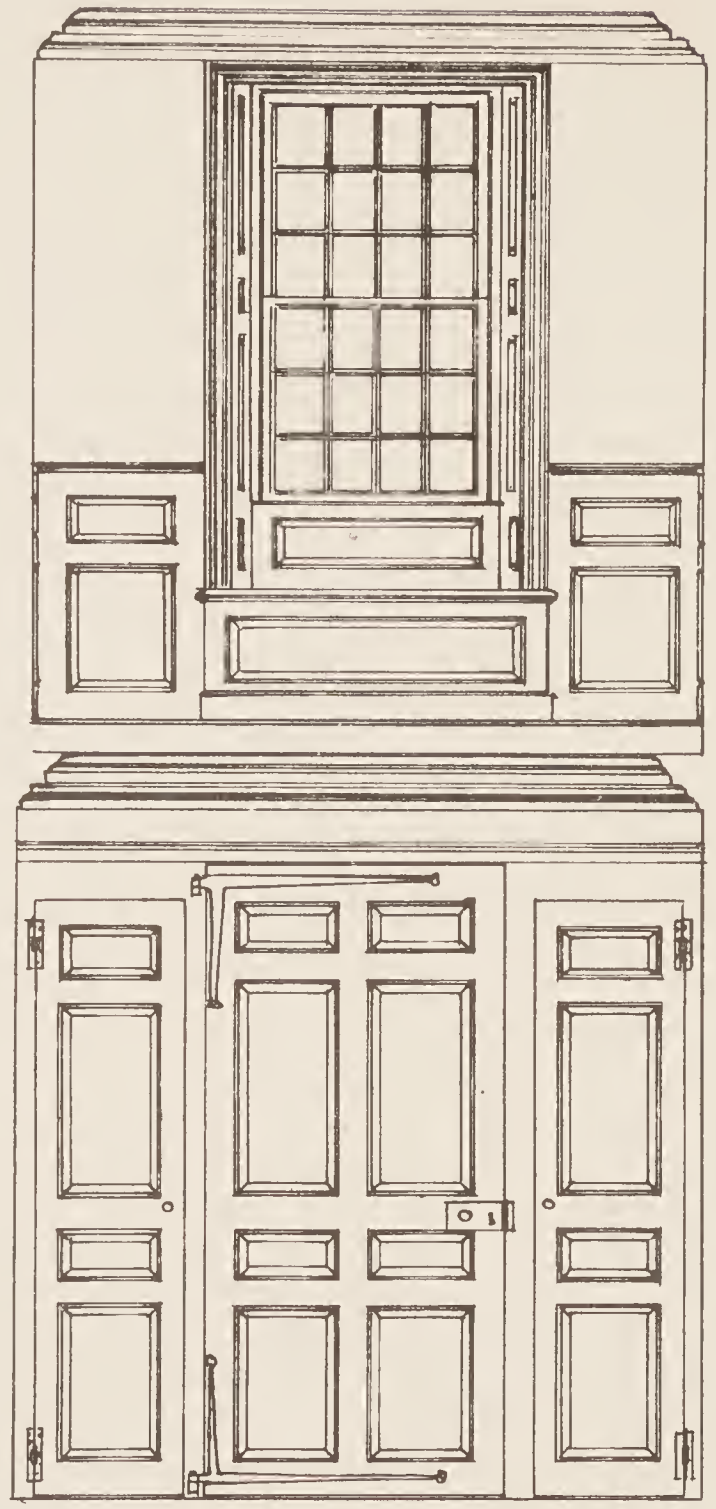


"L"

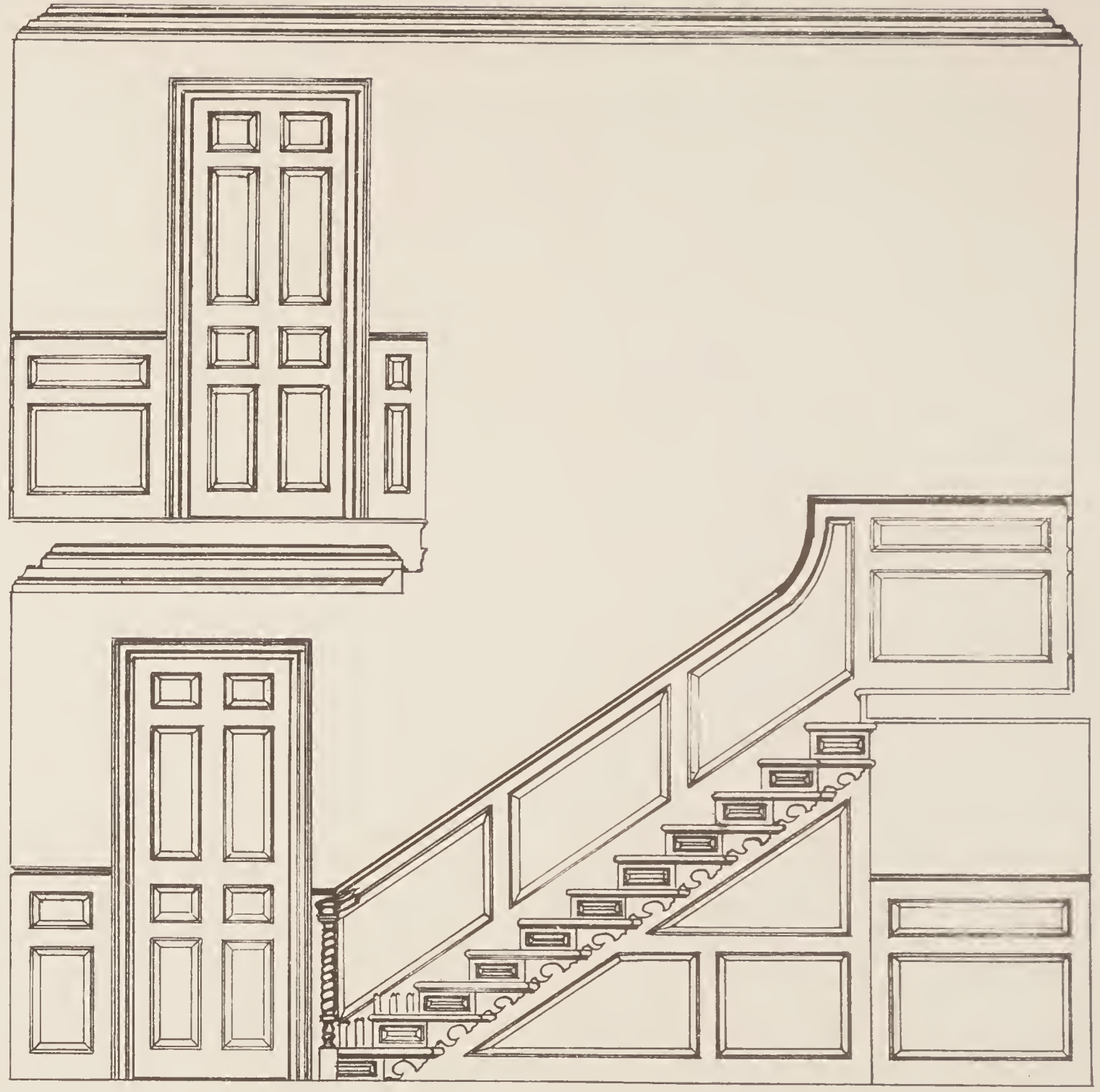
DETAILS OF DINING ROOM AND CHAMBERS.

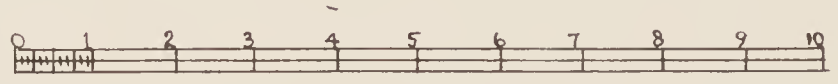
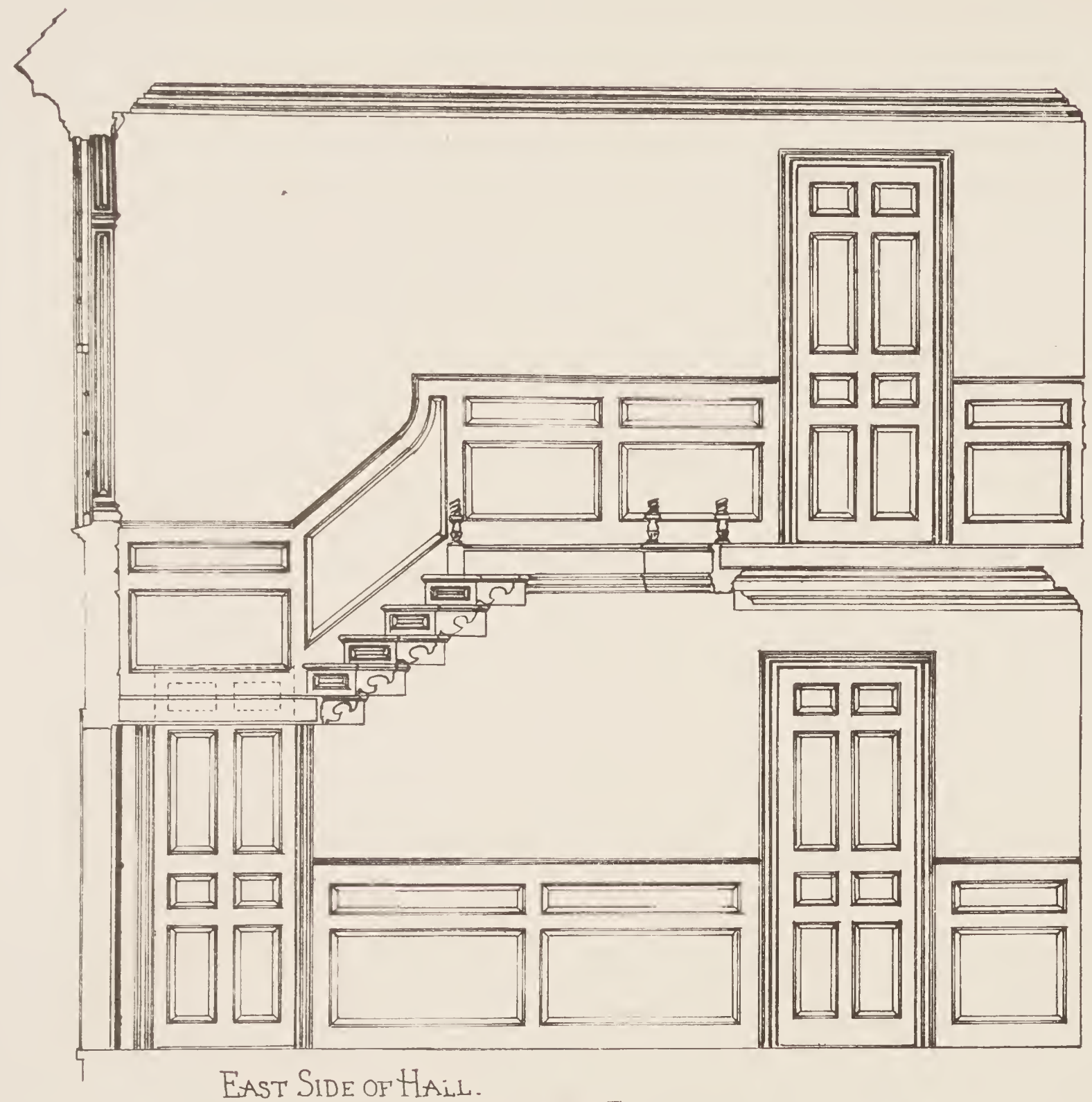


NORTH END OF HALL.

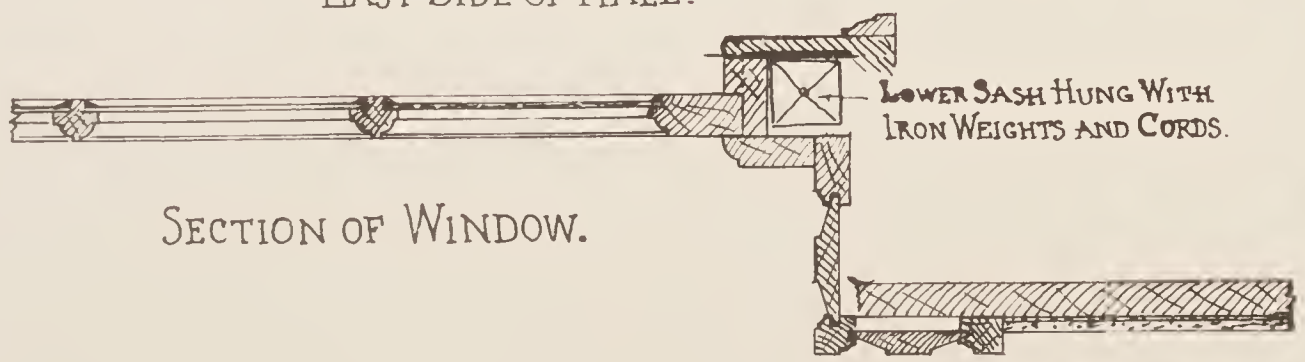


SOUTH END OF HALL.

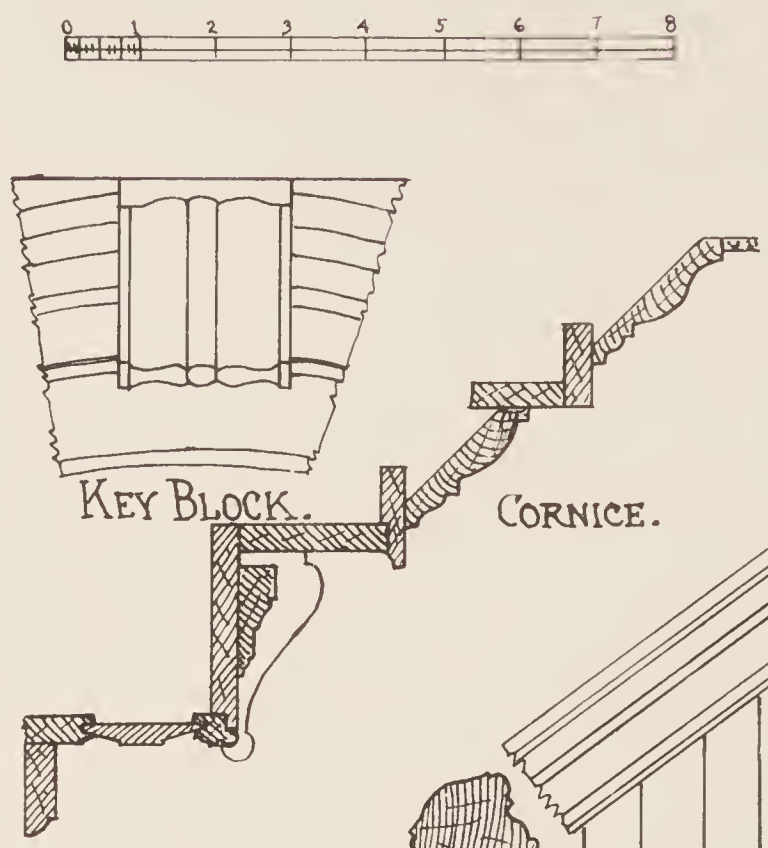


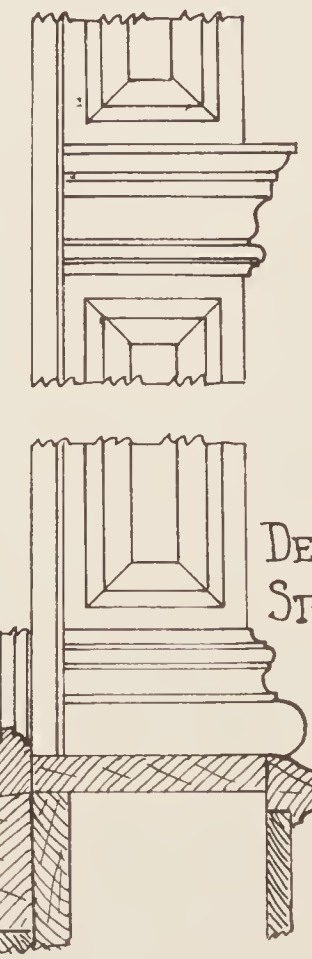
WEST SIDE OF HALL. (BALUSTERS SHOWN ON PLATE 9.)



EAST SIDE OF HALL.

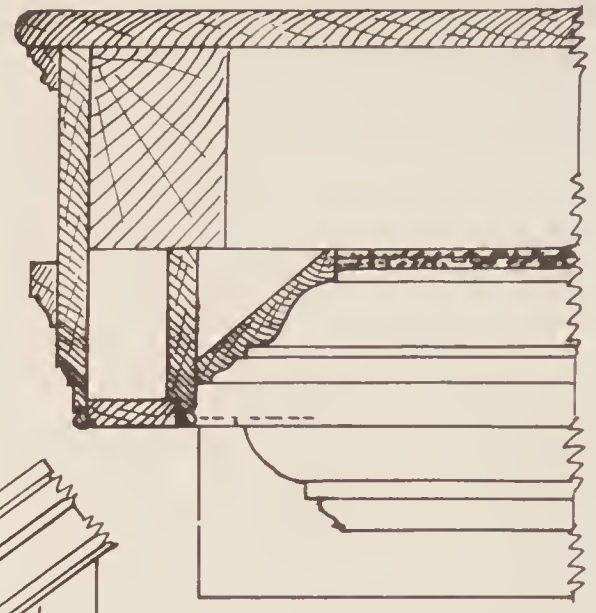


SECTION OF WINDOW.

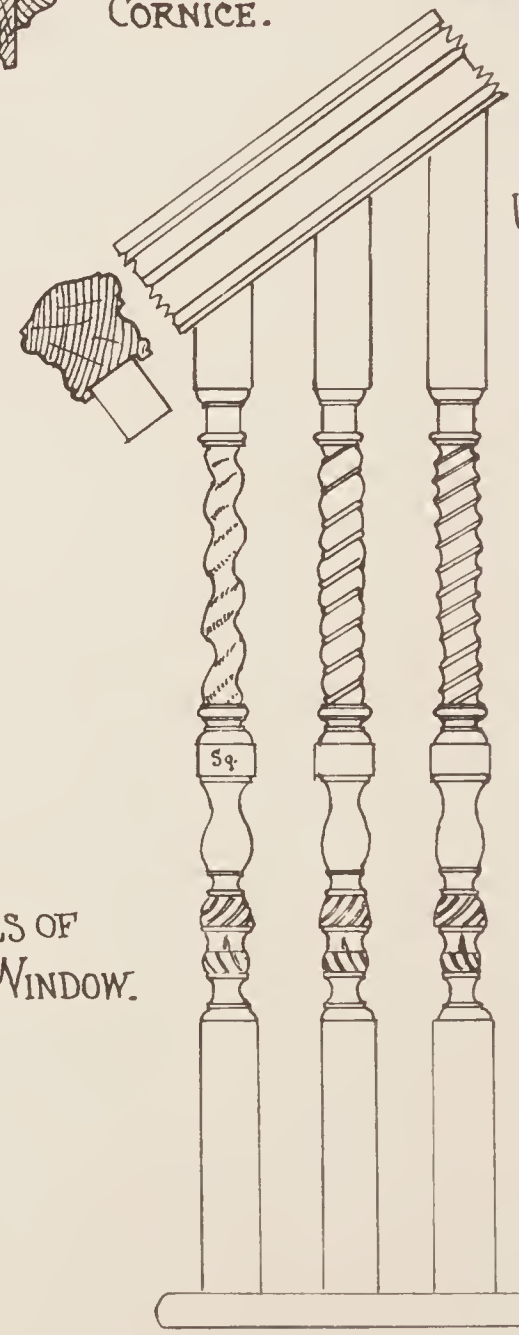


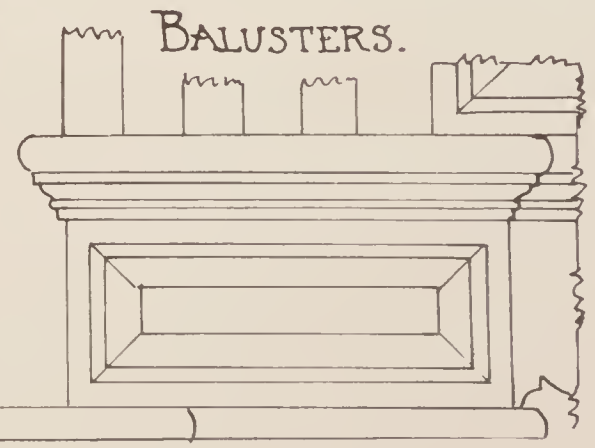


DETAILS OF STAIR WINDOW.

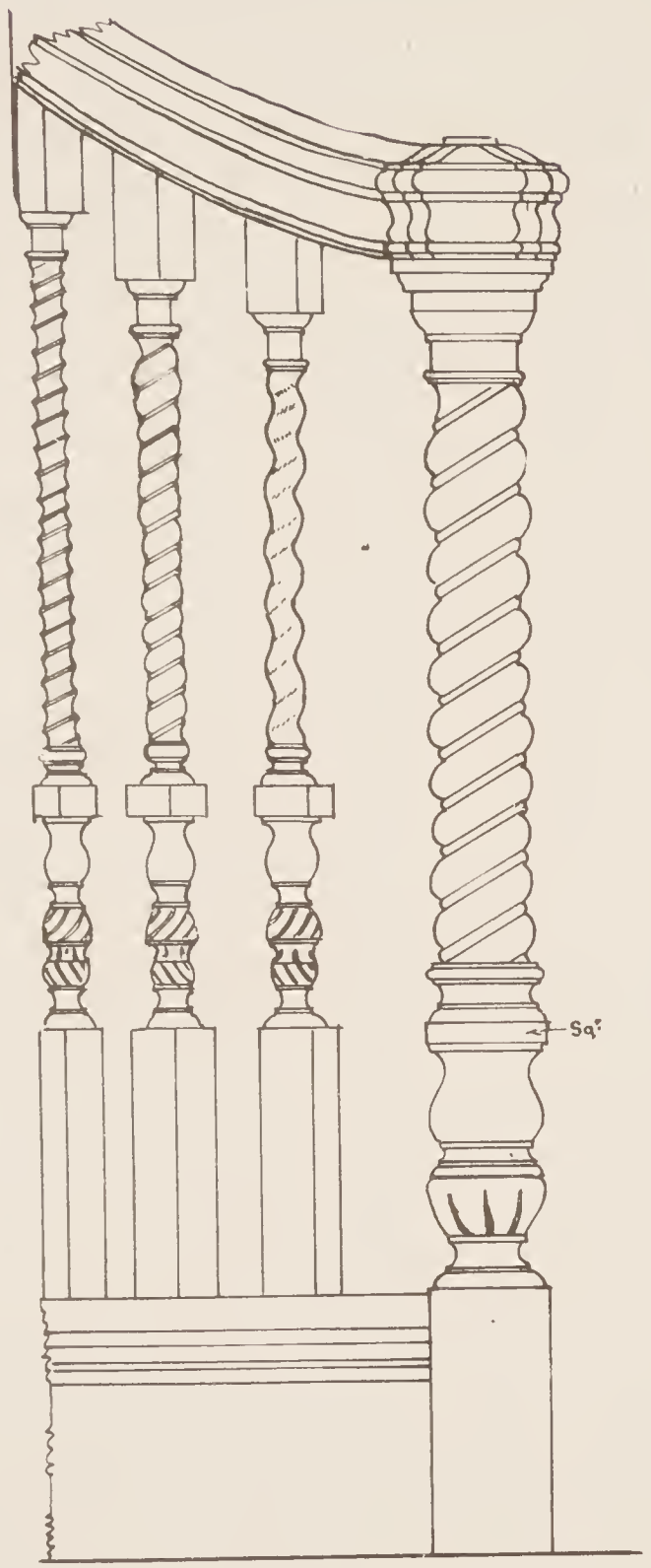


UPPER FLOOR AND CORNICE OF HALL.

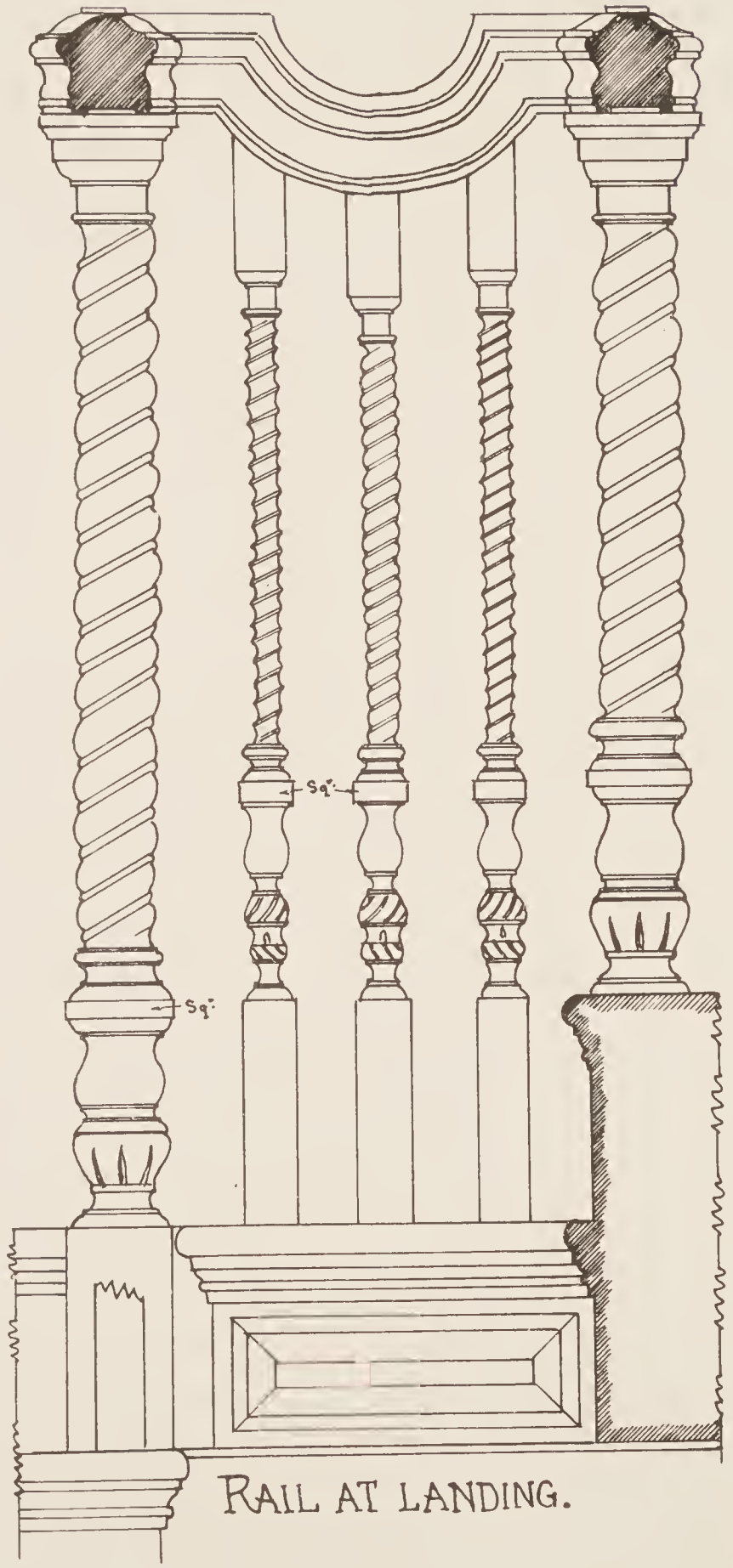




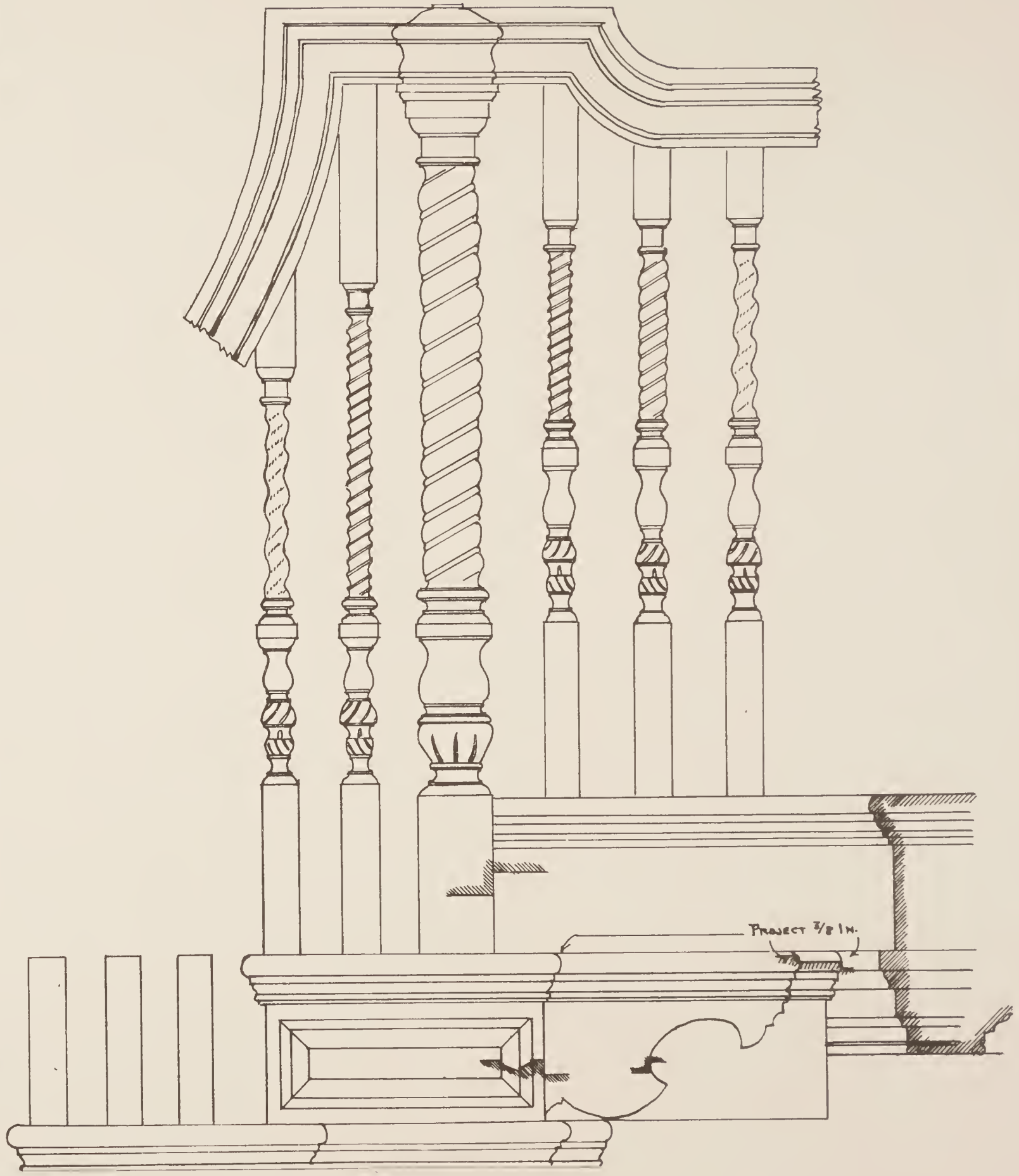
BALUSTERS.



NEWEL (RESTORED.)



RAIL AT LANDING.



DETAILS OF STAIRWAY.

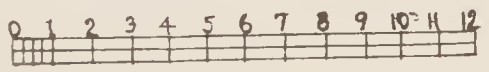
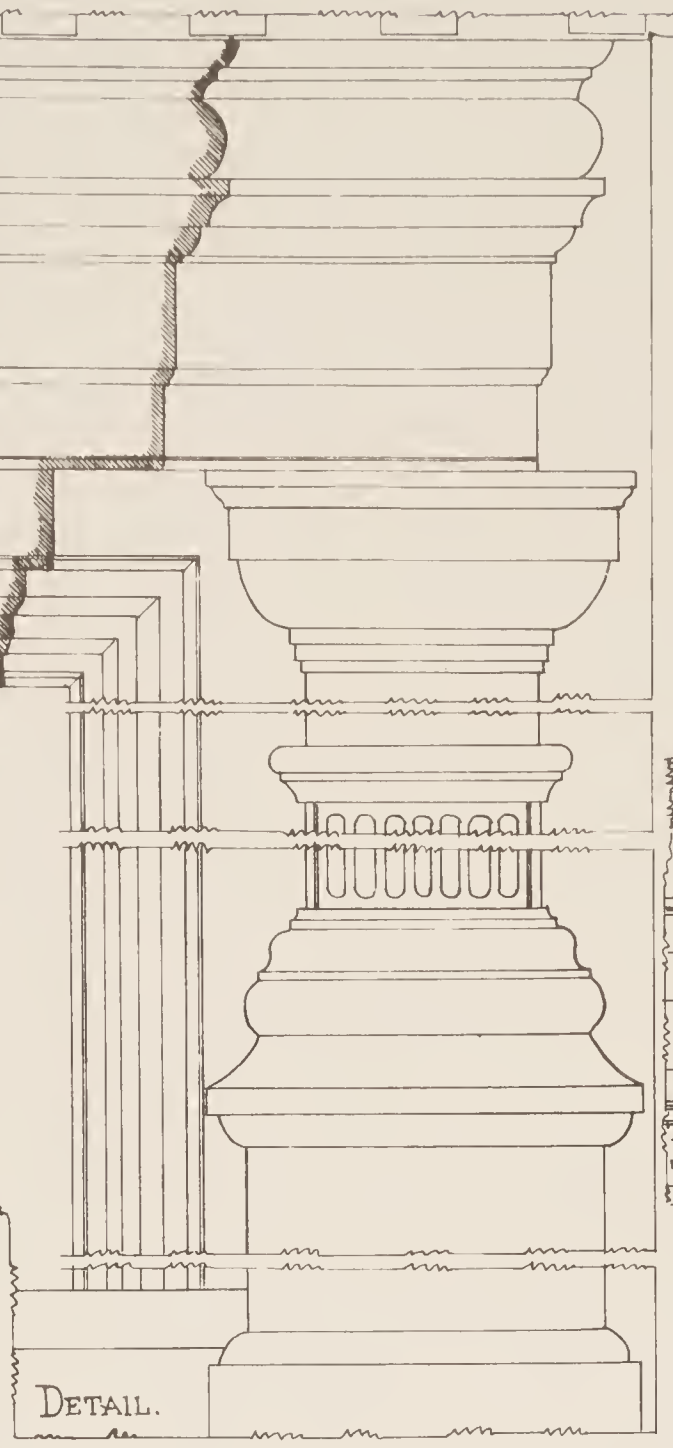
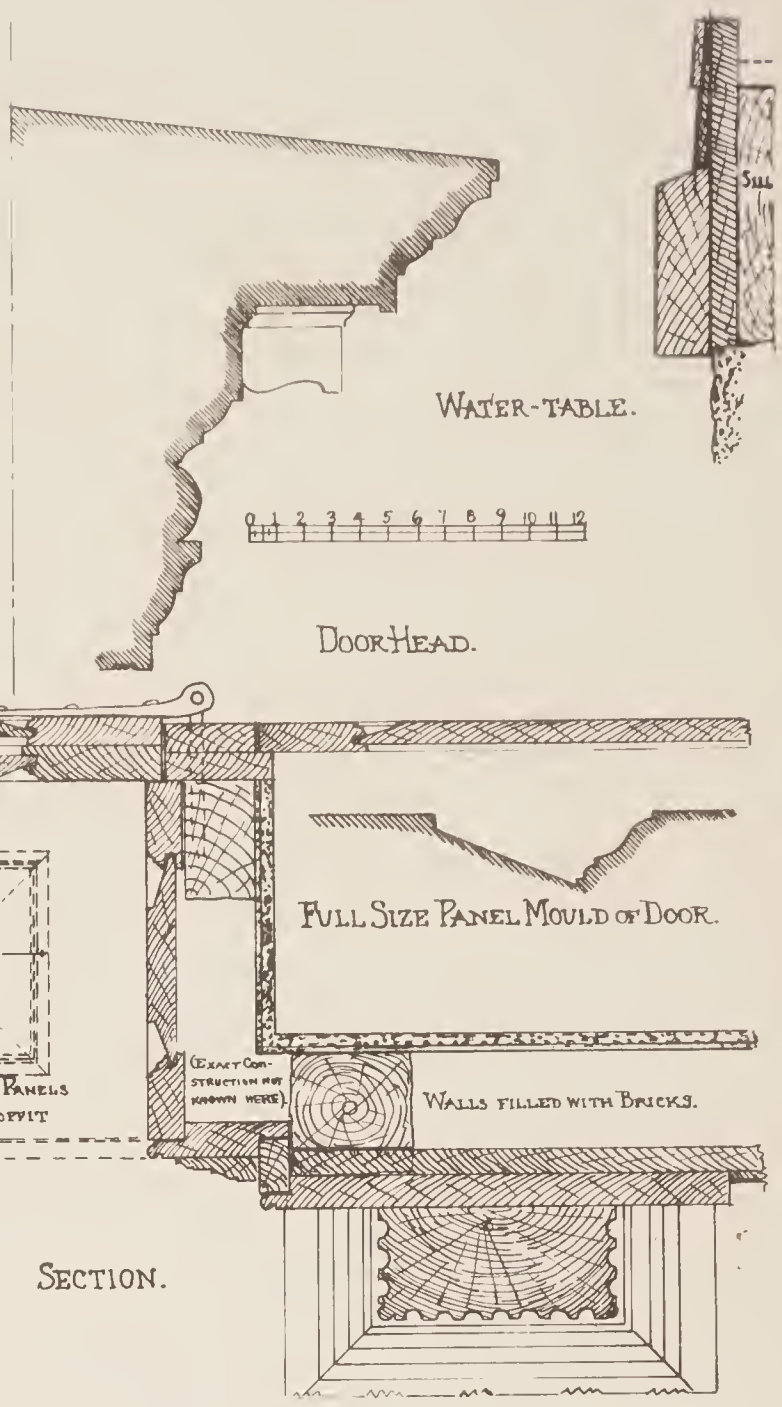


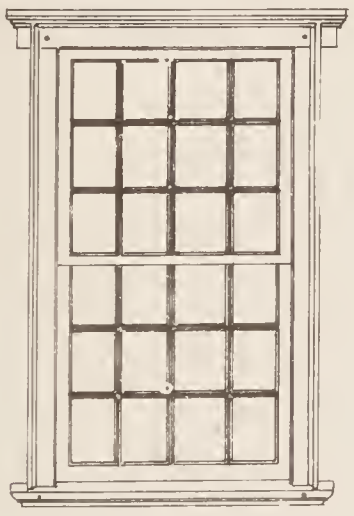
PLATE 33

Front Doorway -

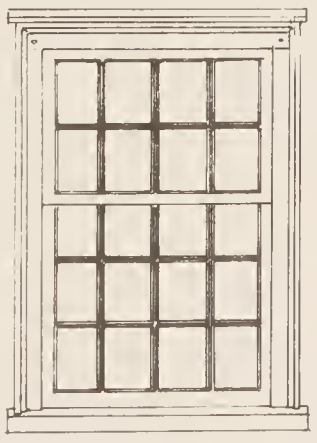




Upper Windows and Cornice of House.

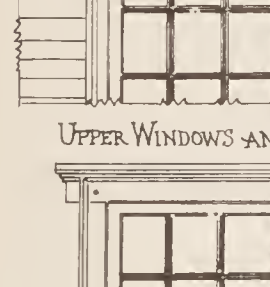


Windows of House.



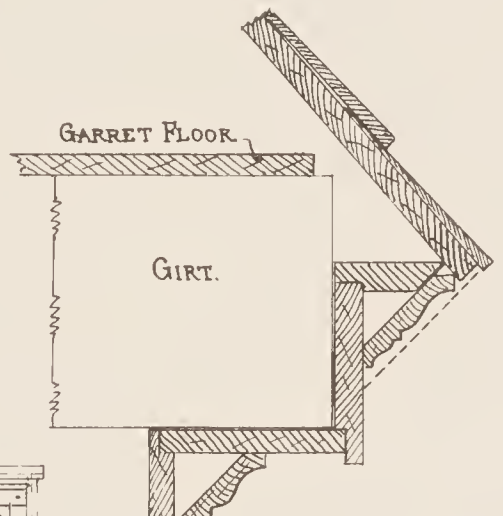
Windows of Wing

Side

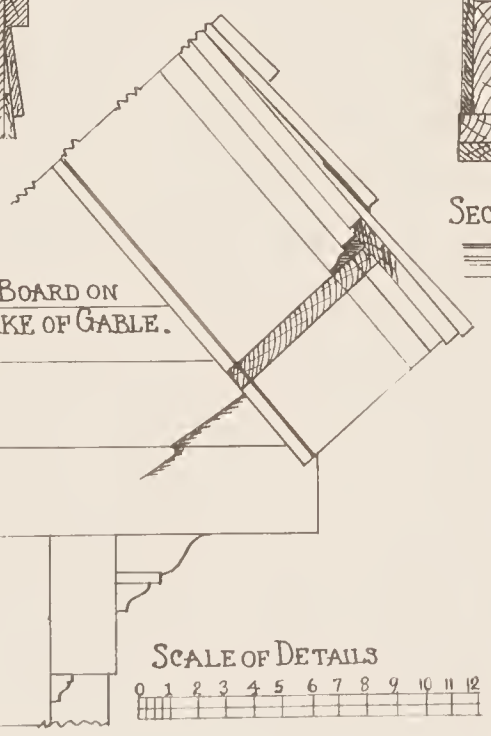


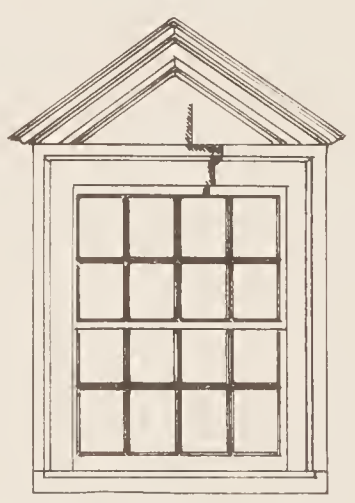
Sill.

Window Frame Head.

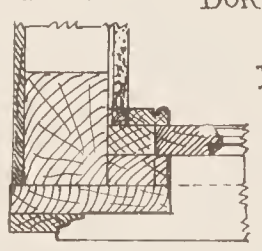


Scale of Elevations.



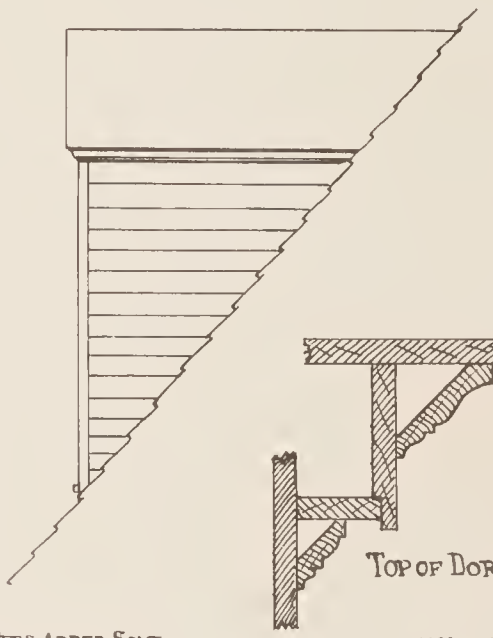


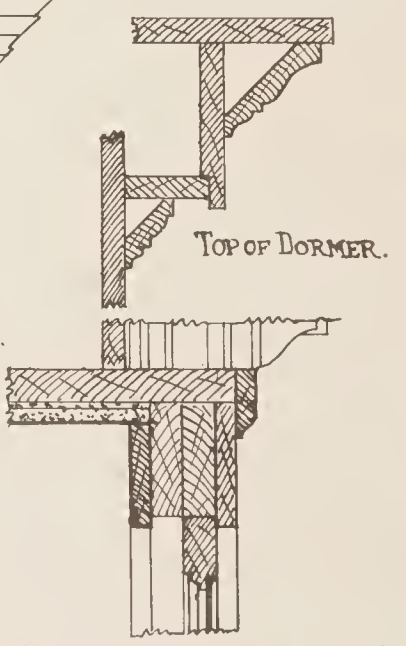
Dormers.



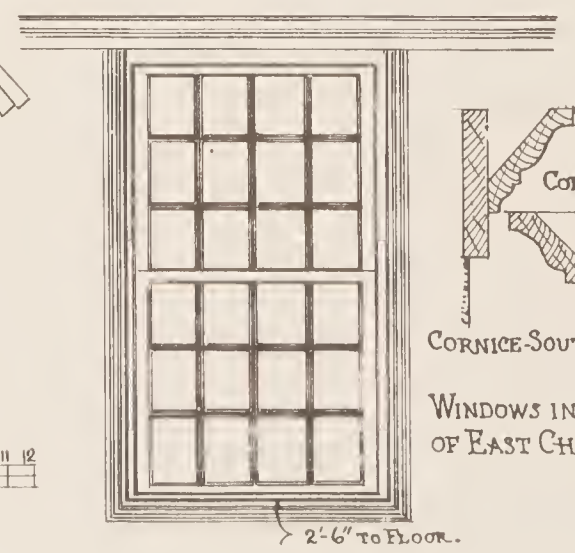
Section of Dormer.

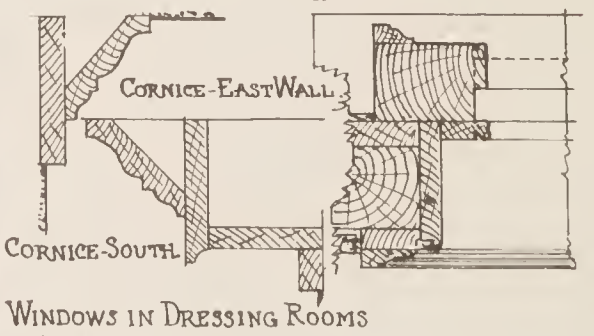
These Dormers were added some time after the House was built.





Top of Dormer.

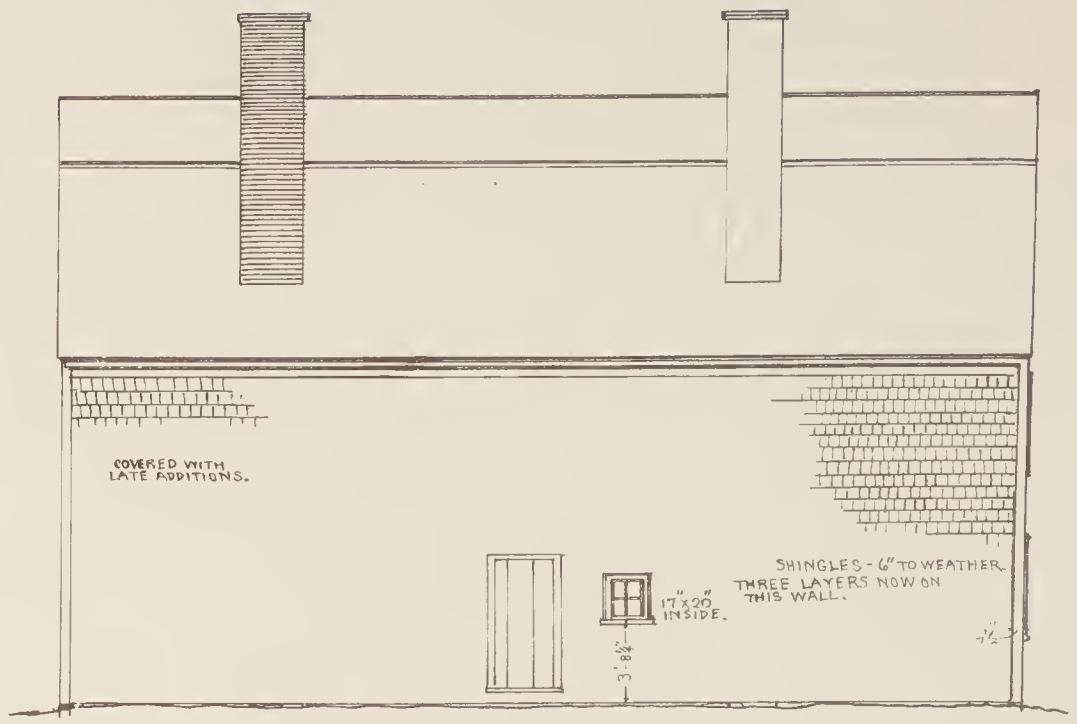




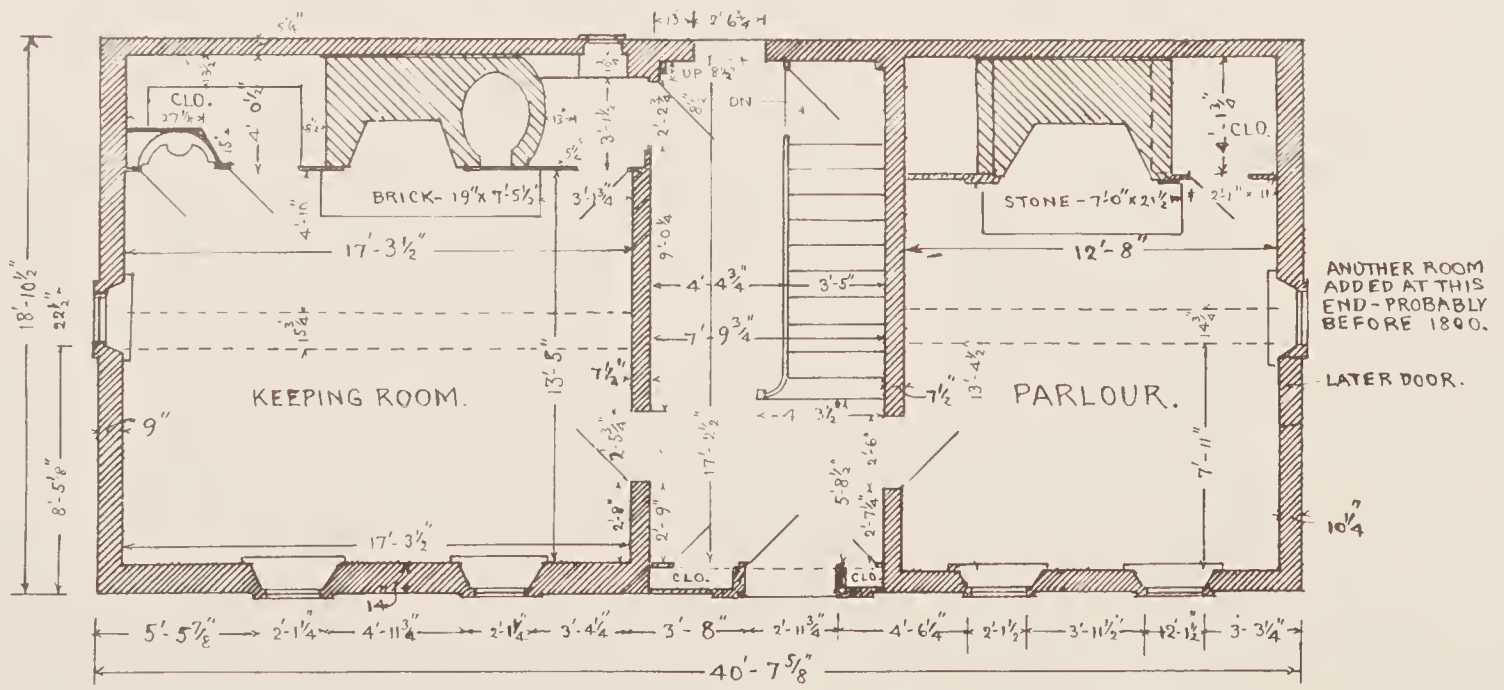
Windows in Dressing Rooms of East Chamber.

SOUTH ELEVATION

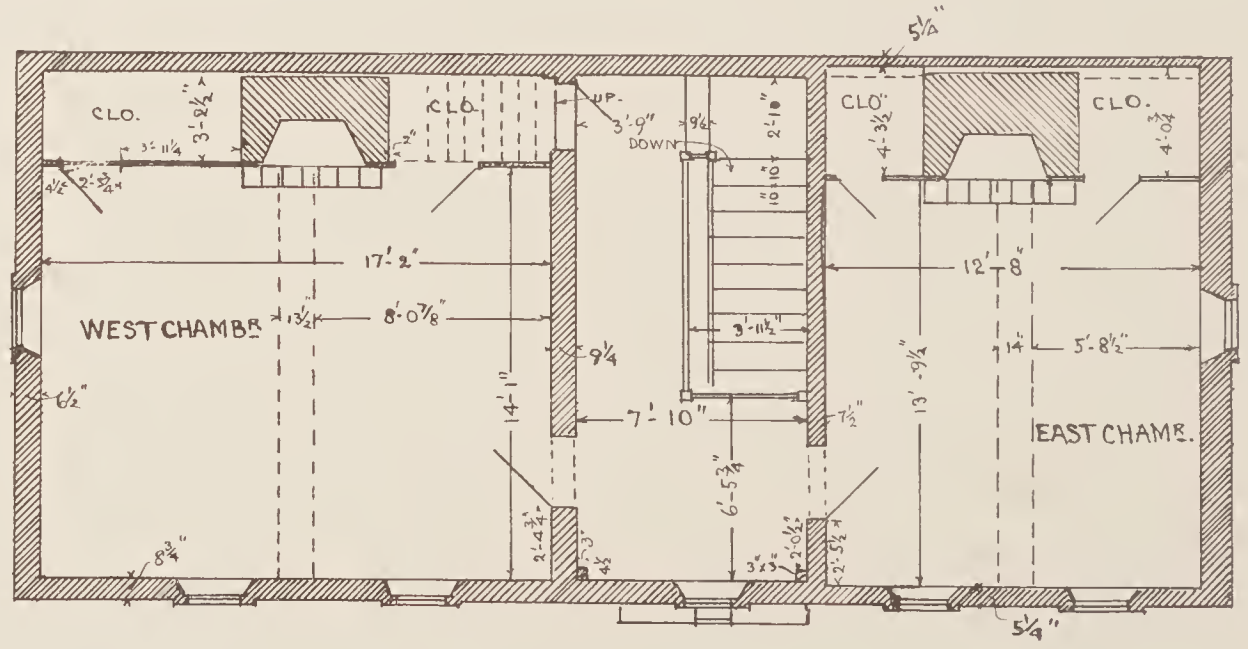
WEST END.



NORTH ELEVATION.



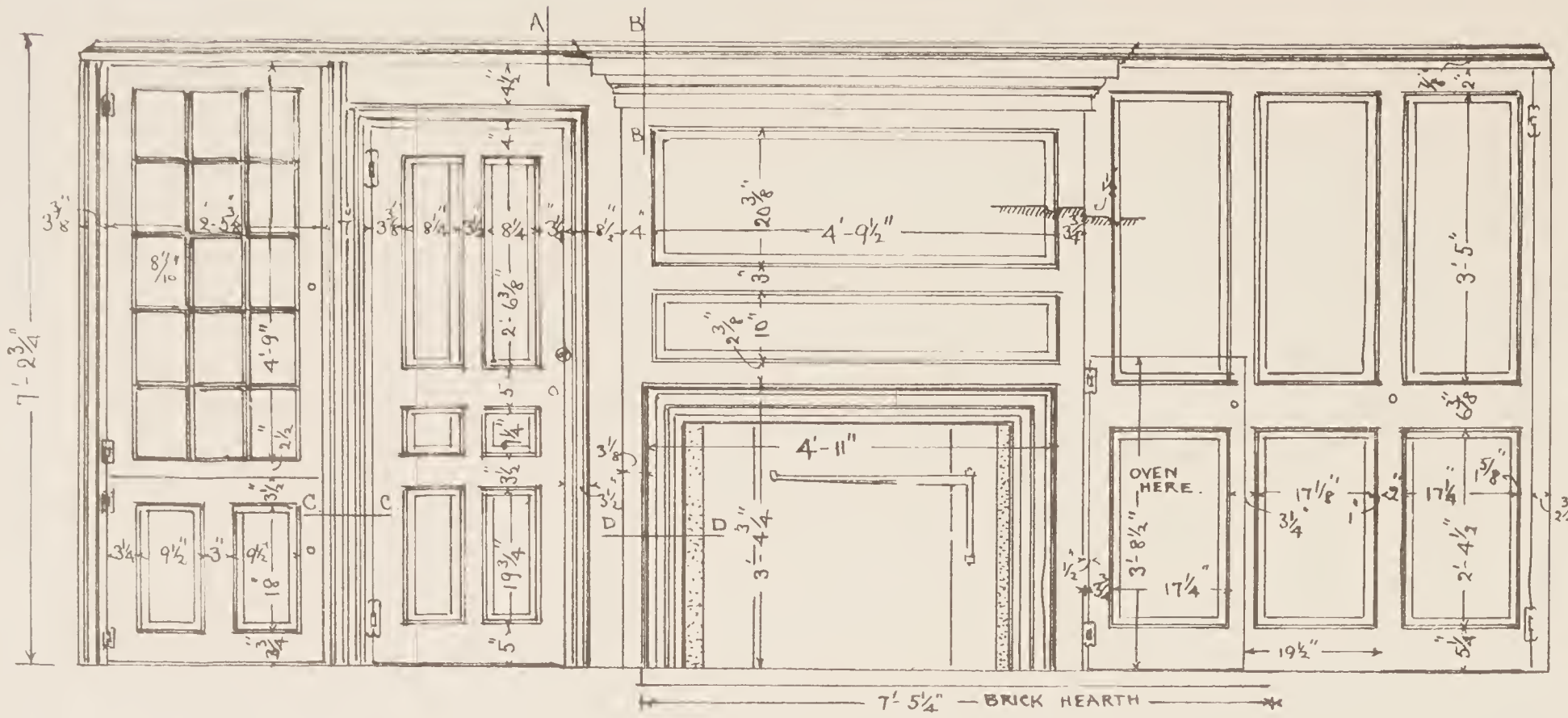
PLAN OF FIRST FLOOR.



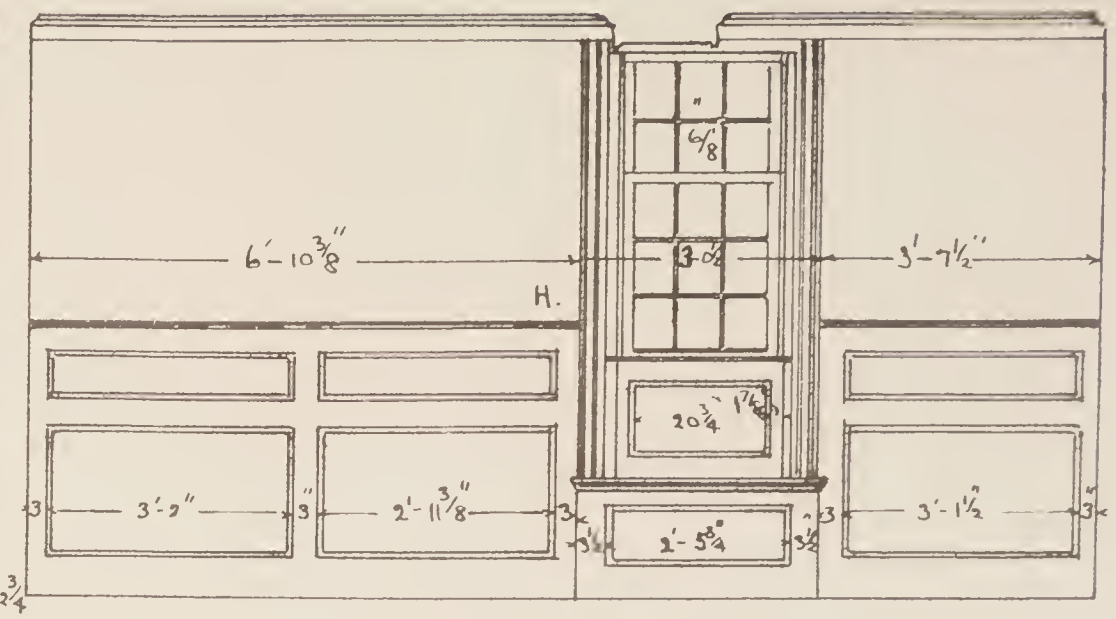
PLAN OF SECOND FLOOR.

BUILT ABOUT 1720-30.

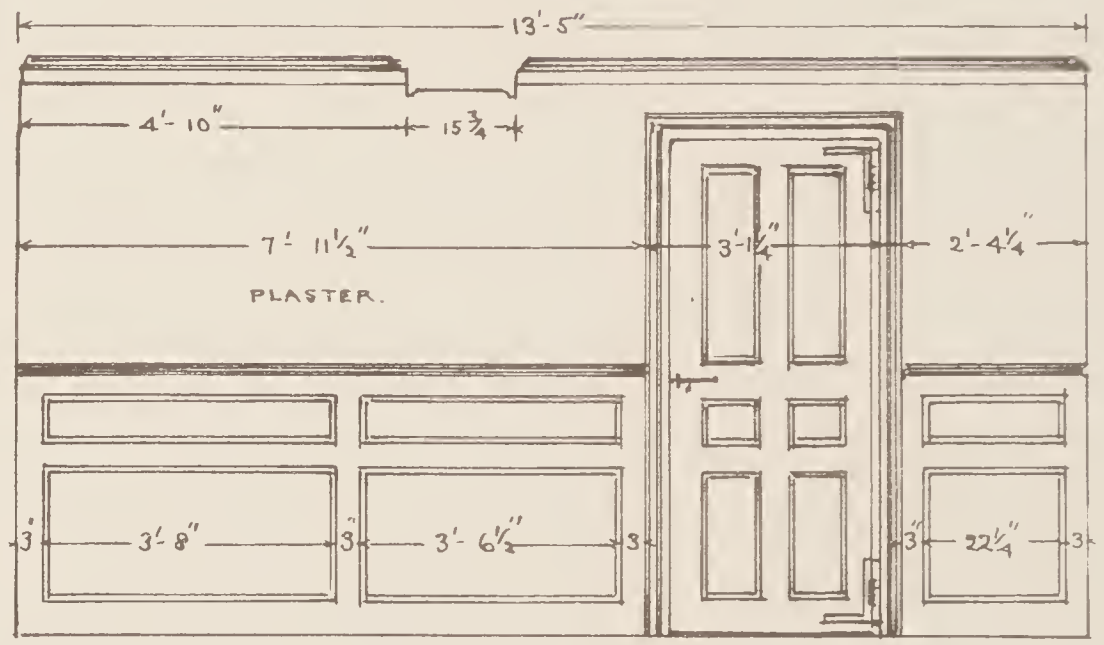
THE TOWNSEND-SWEETSER HOUSE.
LYNNFIELD, MASS.



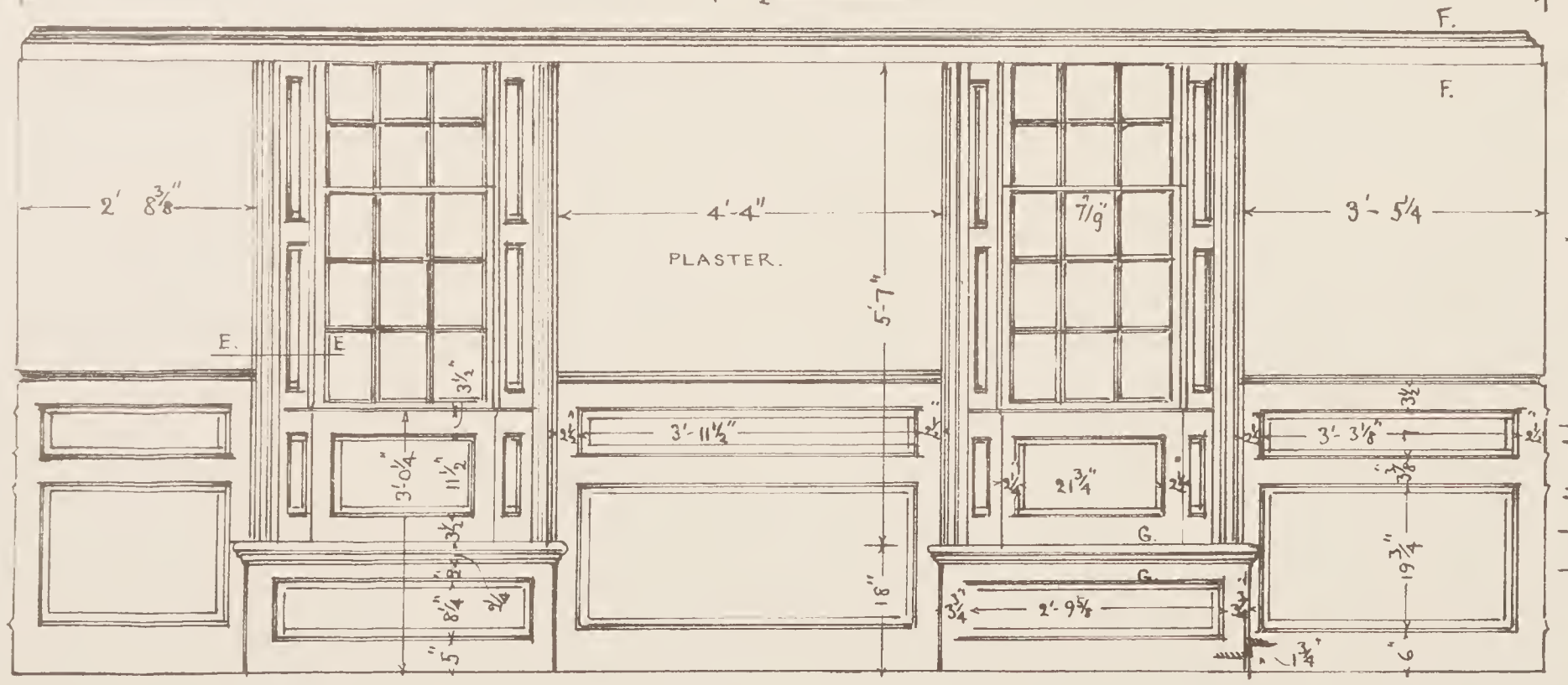
NORTH SIDE OF KEEPING-ROOM.



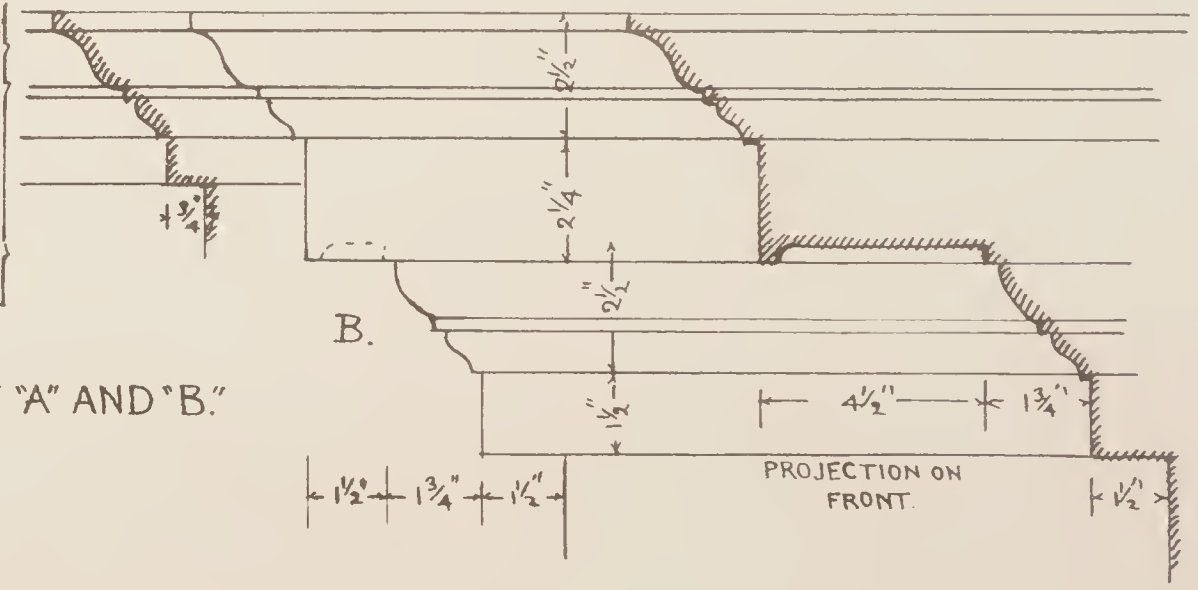
WEST SIDE OF ROOM.



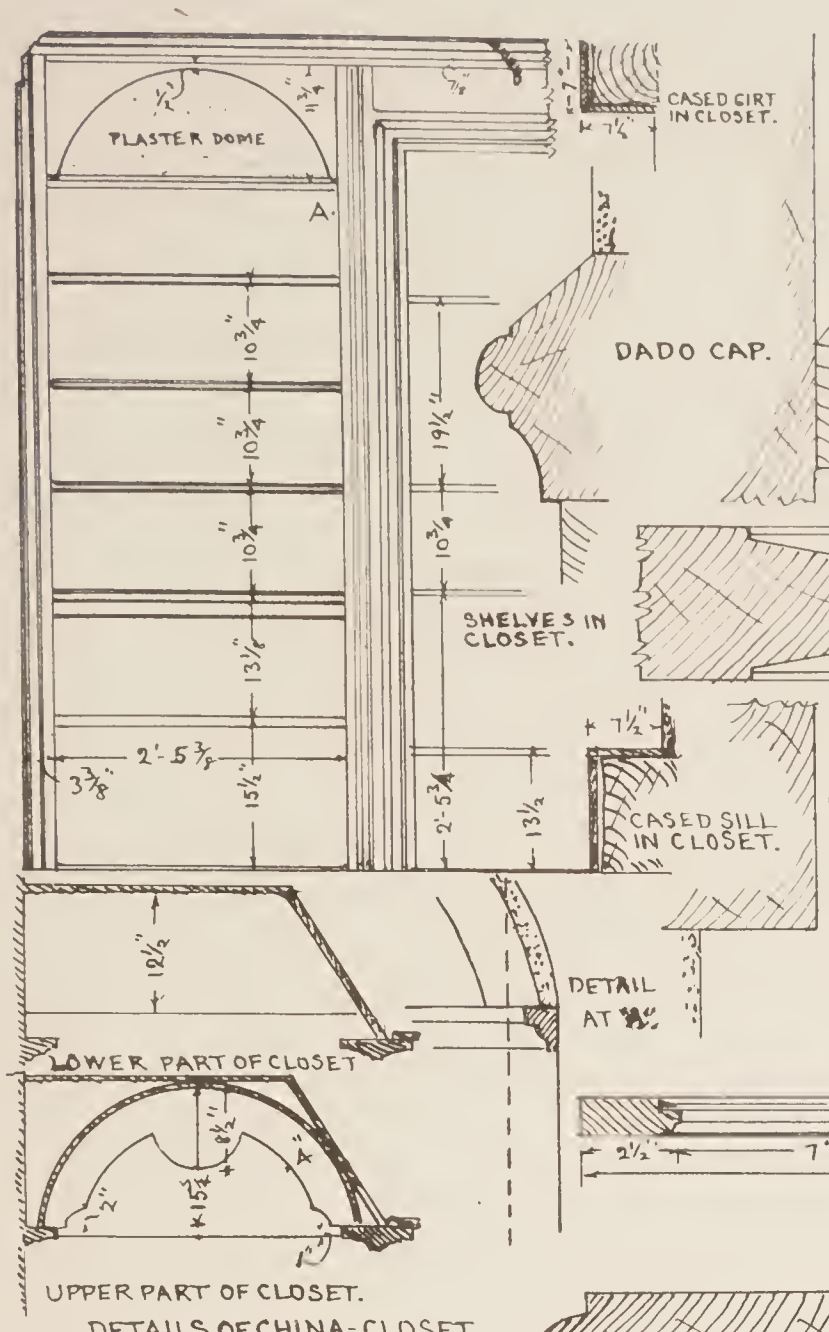
EAST END OF ROOM.



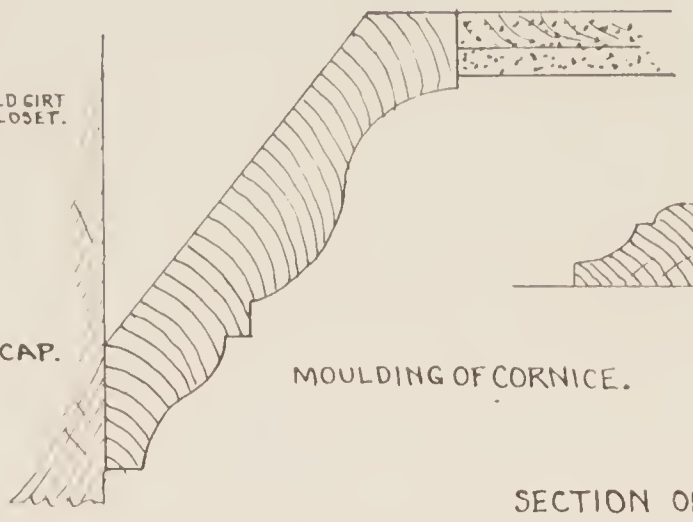
SOUTH SIDE OF KEEPING-ROOM.

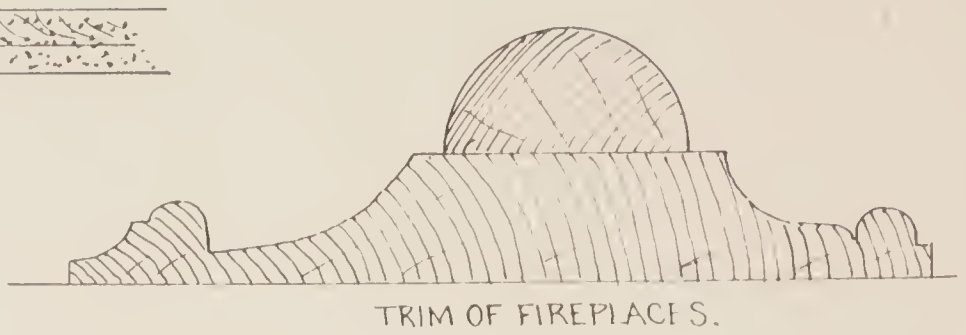


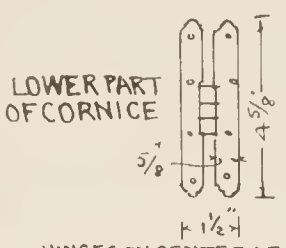
CORNICE AT "A" AND "B."

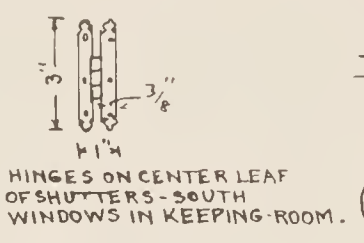


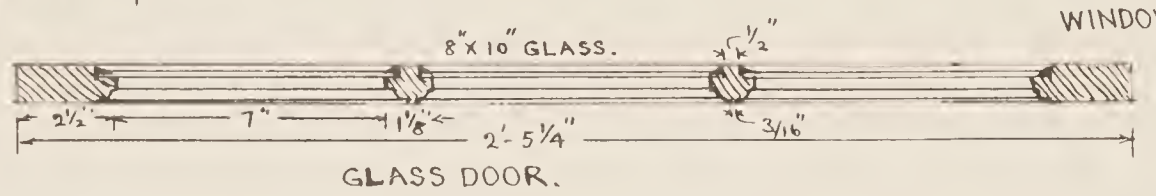
DETAILS OF CHINA-CLOSET IN THE KEEPING-ROOM.

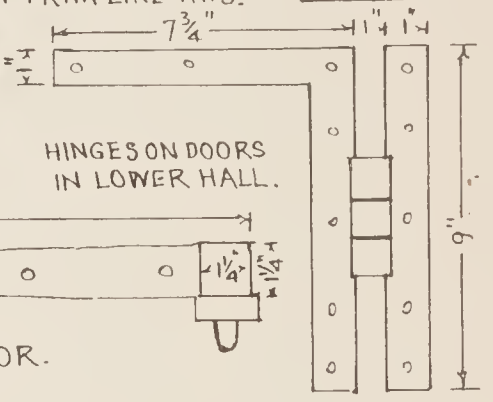


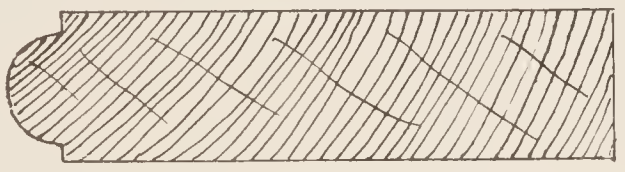


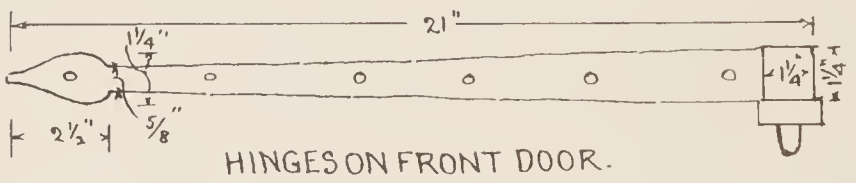


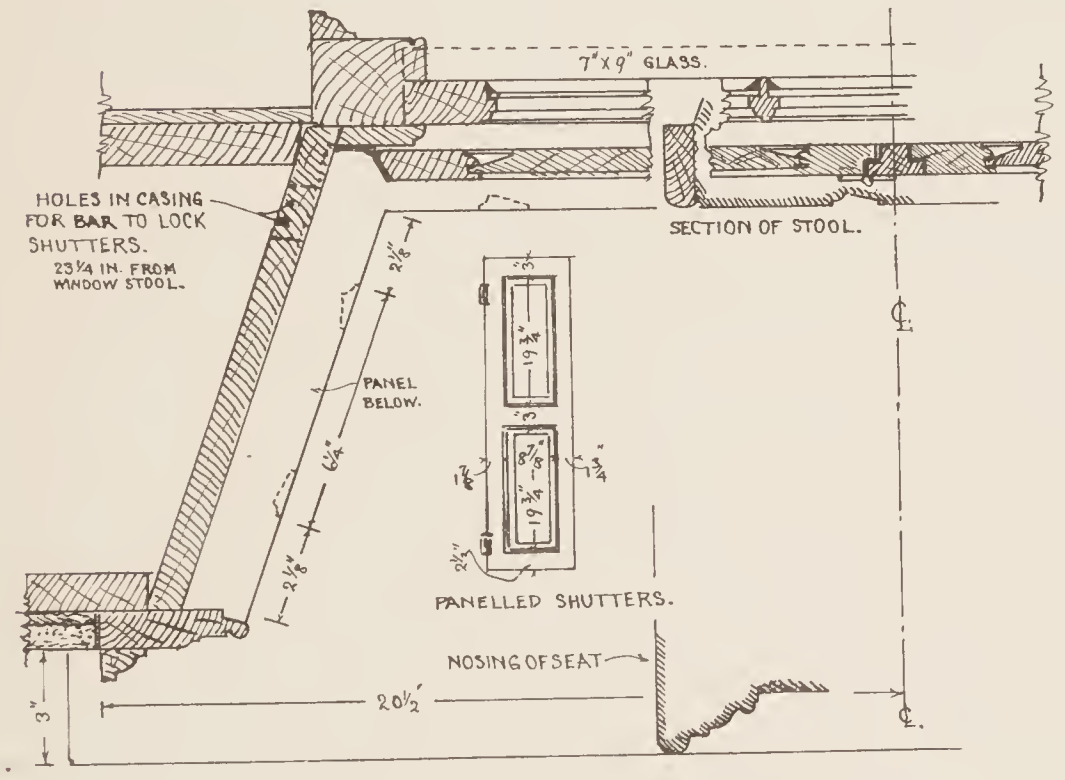




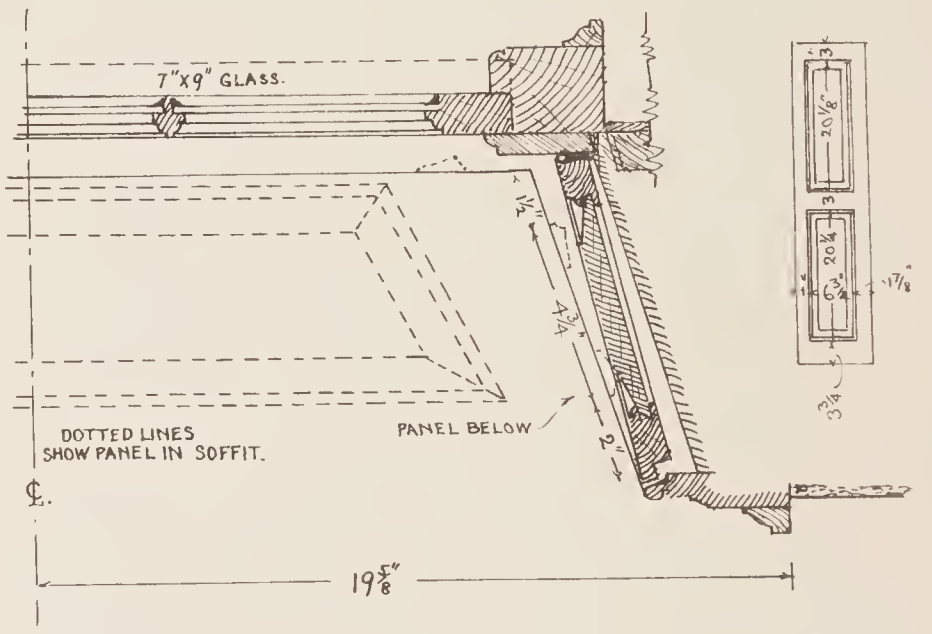




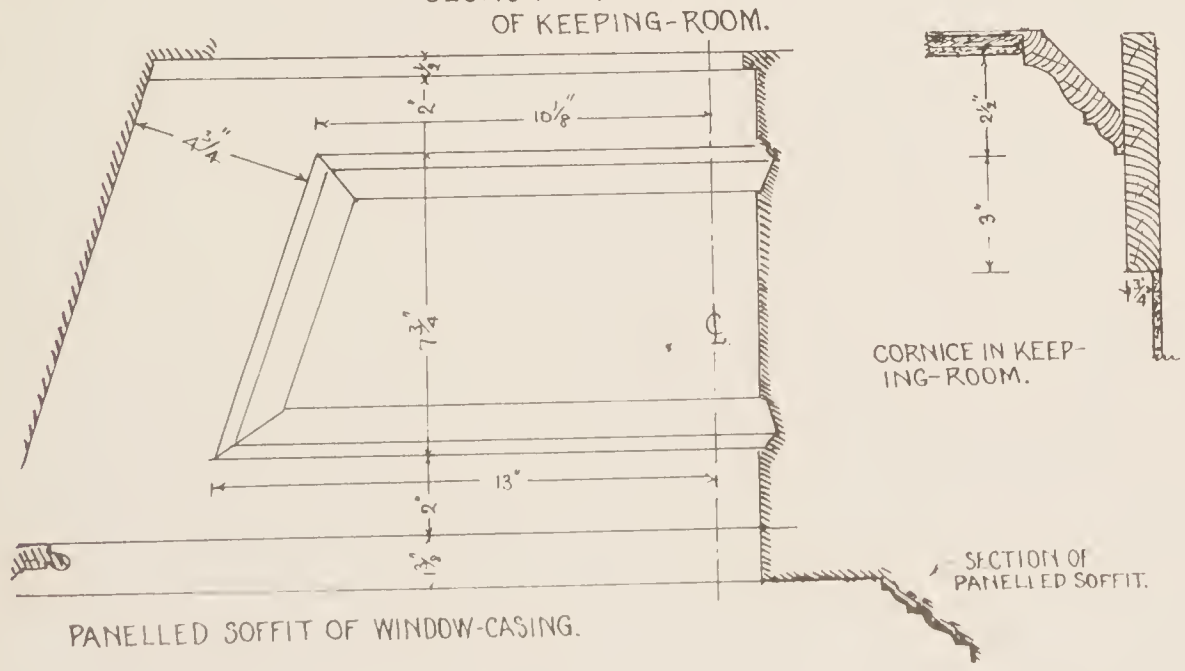


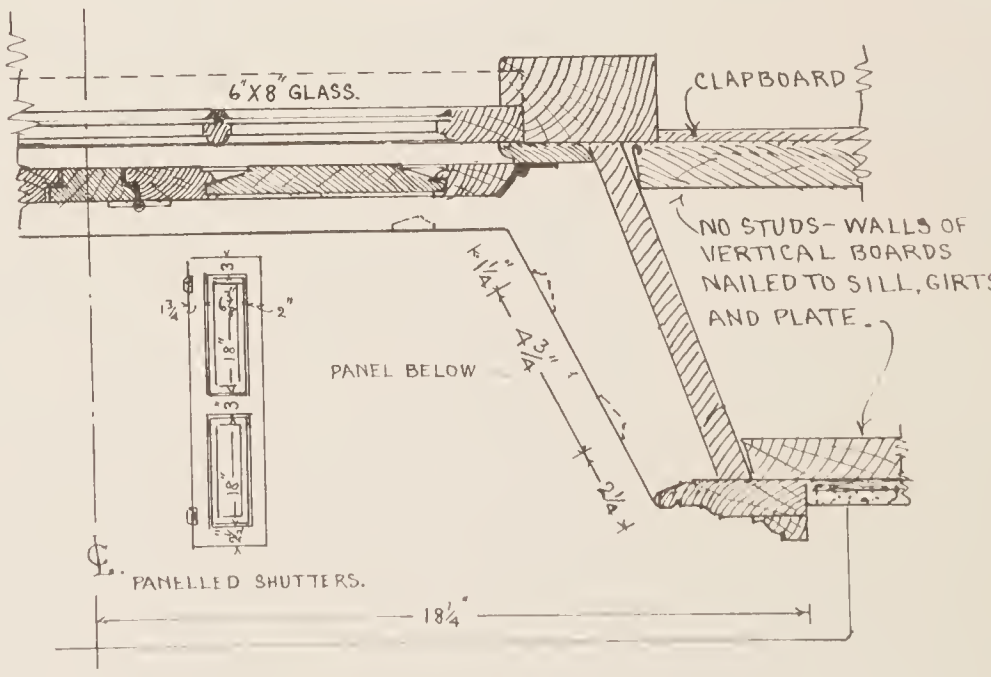


SECTION OF WINDOWS IN SOUTH WALL OF KEEPING-ROOM.

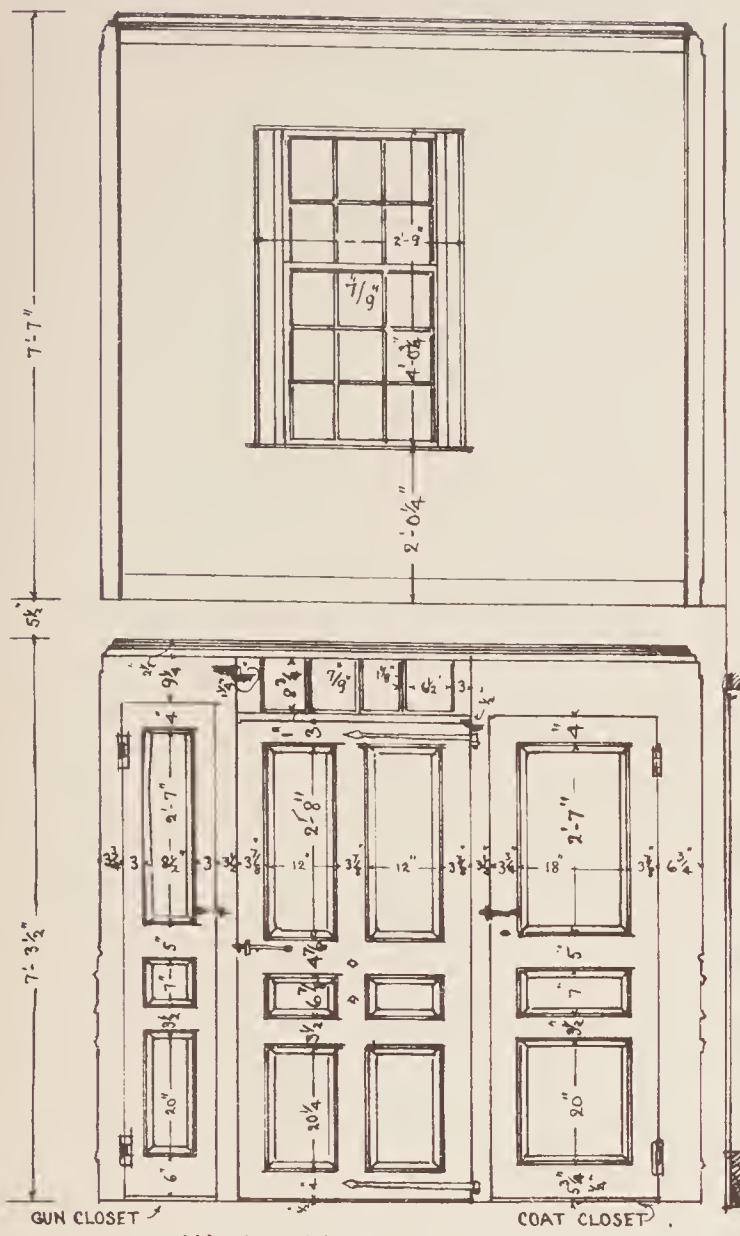


SECTION OF WINDOWS IN SOUTH WALL OF PARLOUR.

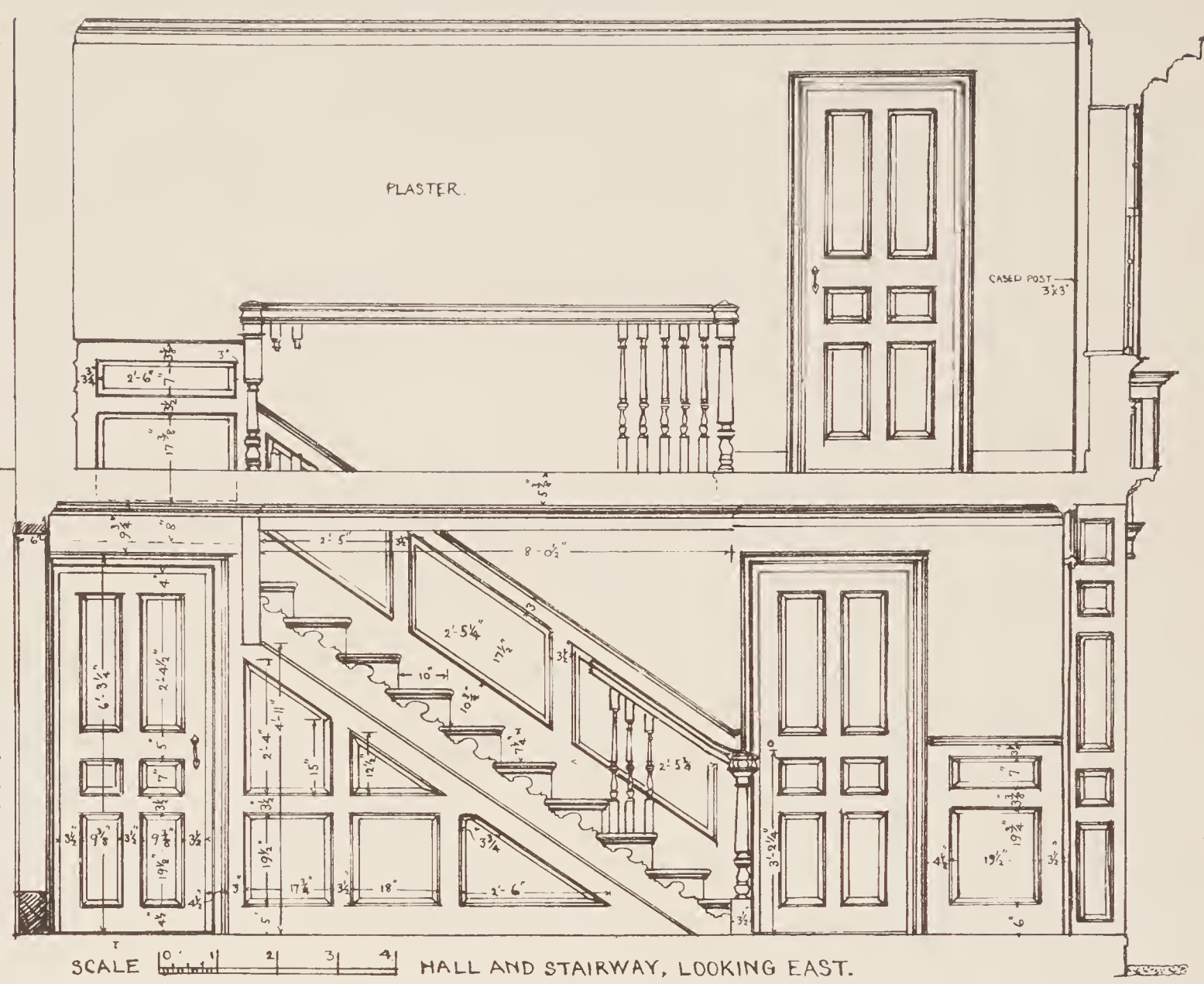




SECTION OF WINDOW IN WEST WALL OF KEEPING ROOM.

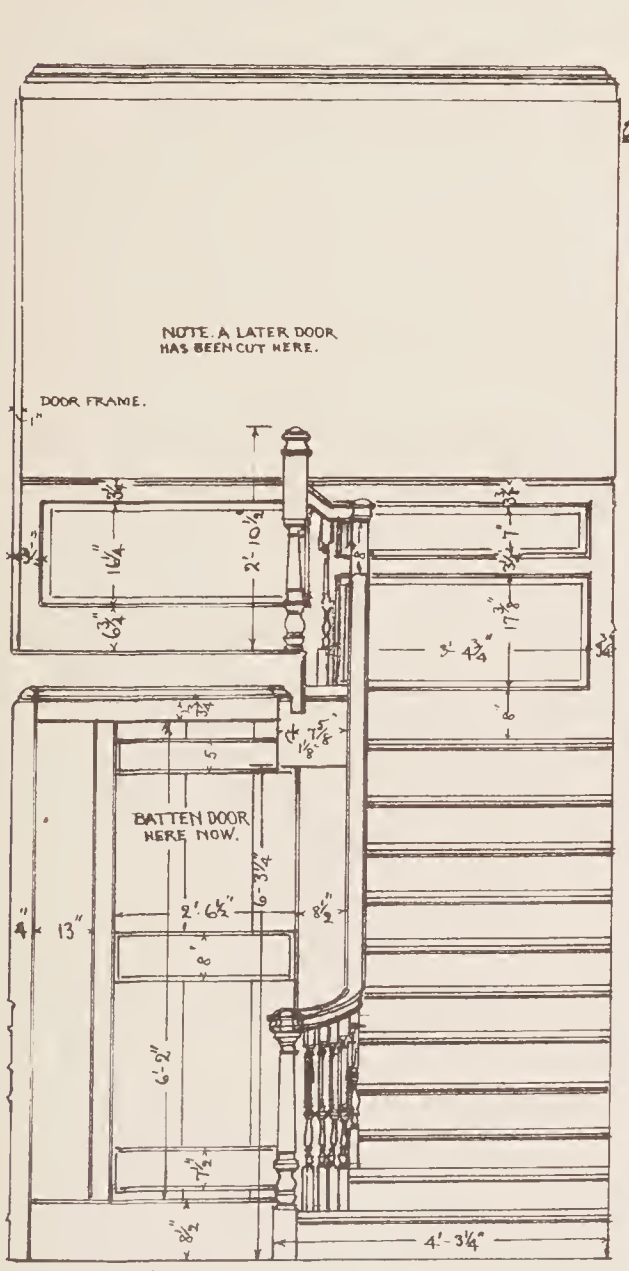


HALL - LOOKING SOUTH.

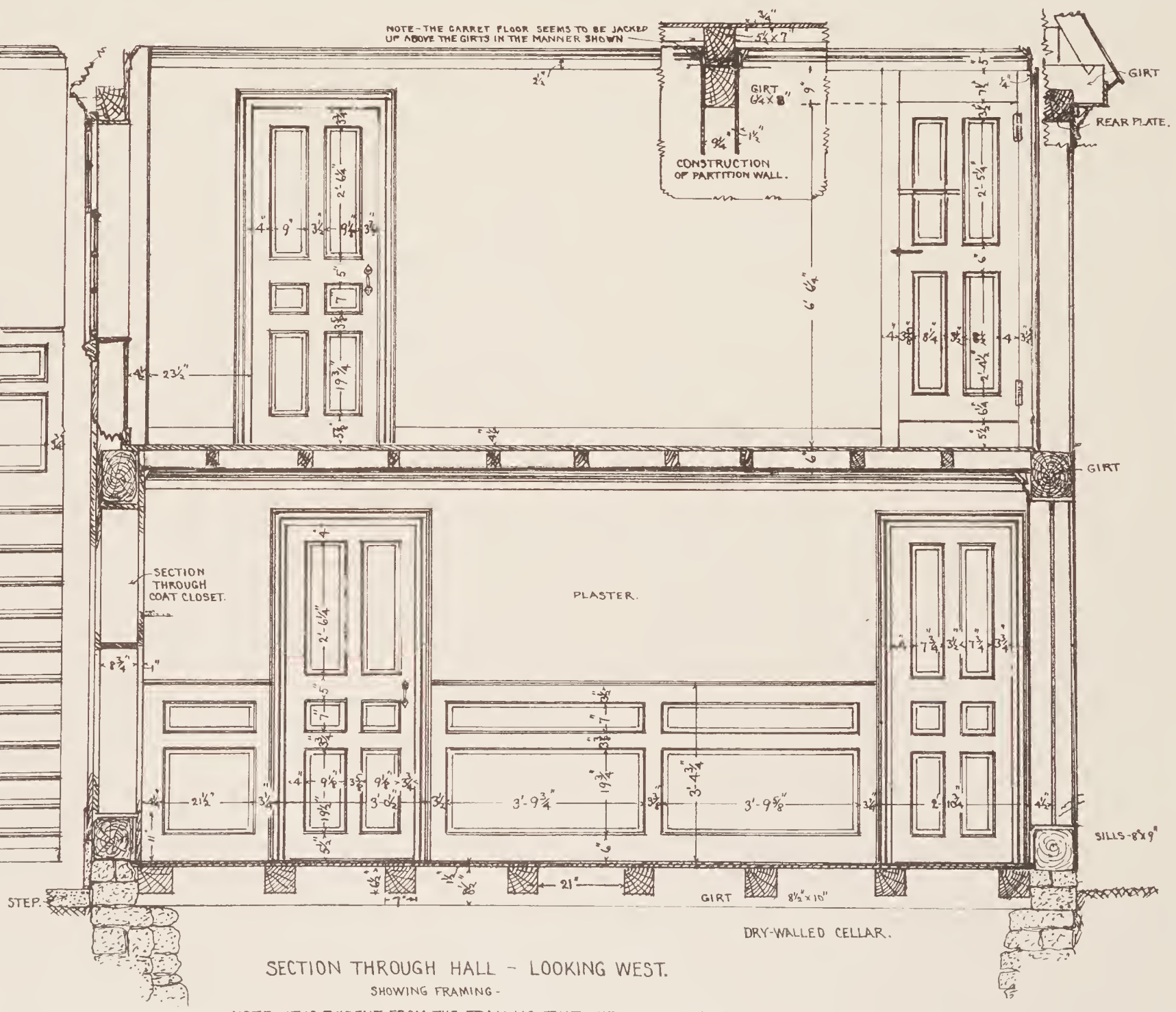


SCALE 0 1 2 3 4

HALL AND STAIRWAY, LOOKING EAST.



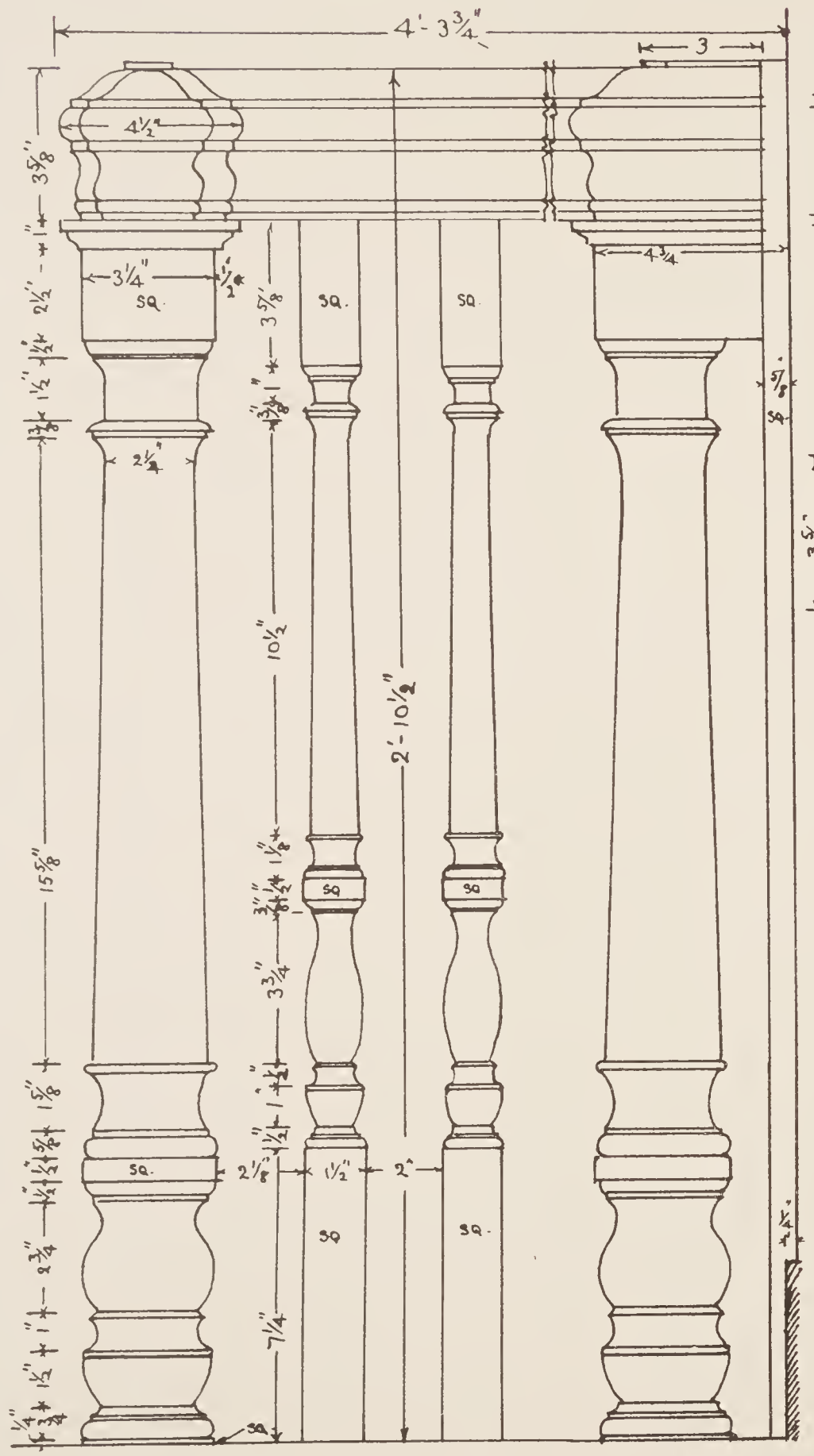
HALL - LOOKING NORTH.



SECTION THROUGH HALL - LOOKING WEST.

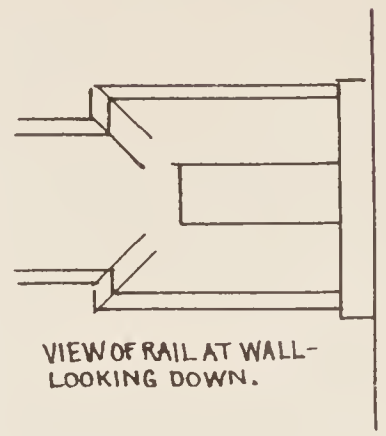
SHOWING FRAMING -

NOTE. IT IS EVIDENT FROM THE FRAMING THAT THE HALL AND KEEPING-ROOM FORMED AN OLDER HOUSE ABOUT WHICH THE PRESENT WORK WAS BUILT ABOUT 1720-1730.

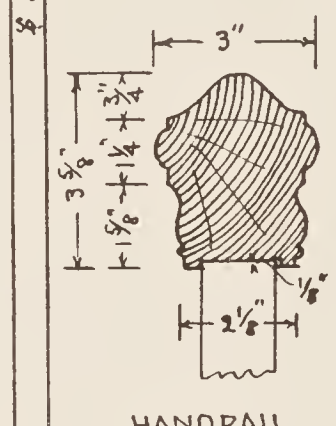


NEWEL AND BALUSTERS.
END OF STAIRWELL - SECOND FLOOR.

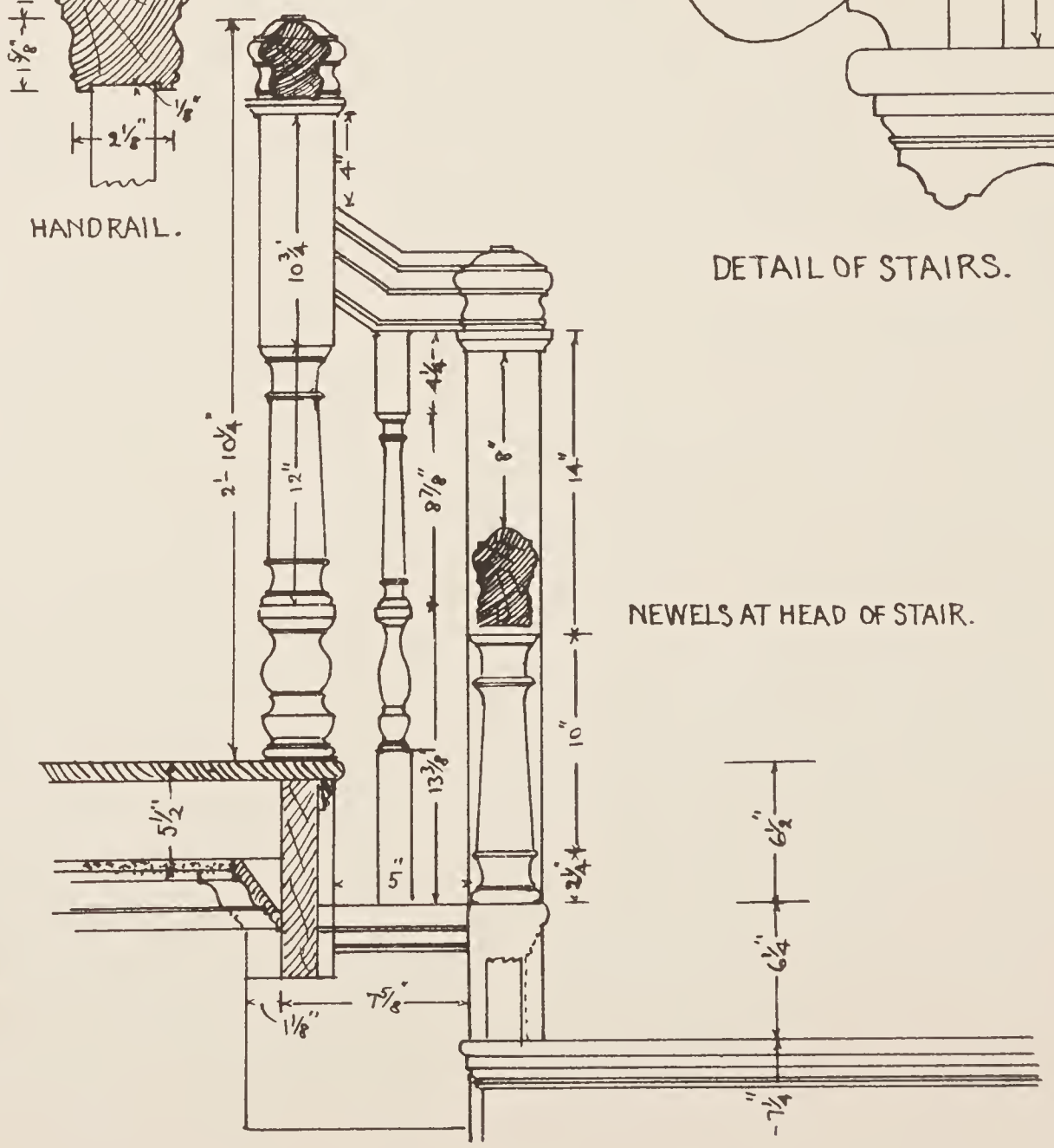
NEWEL NEXT WALL.



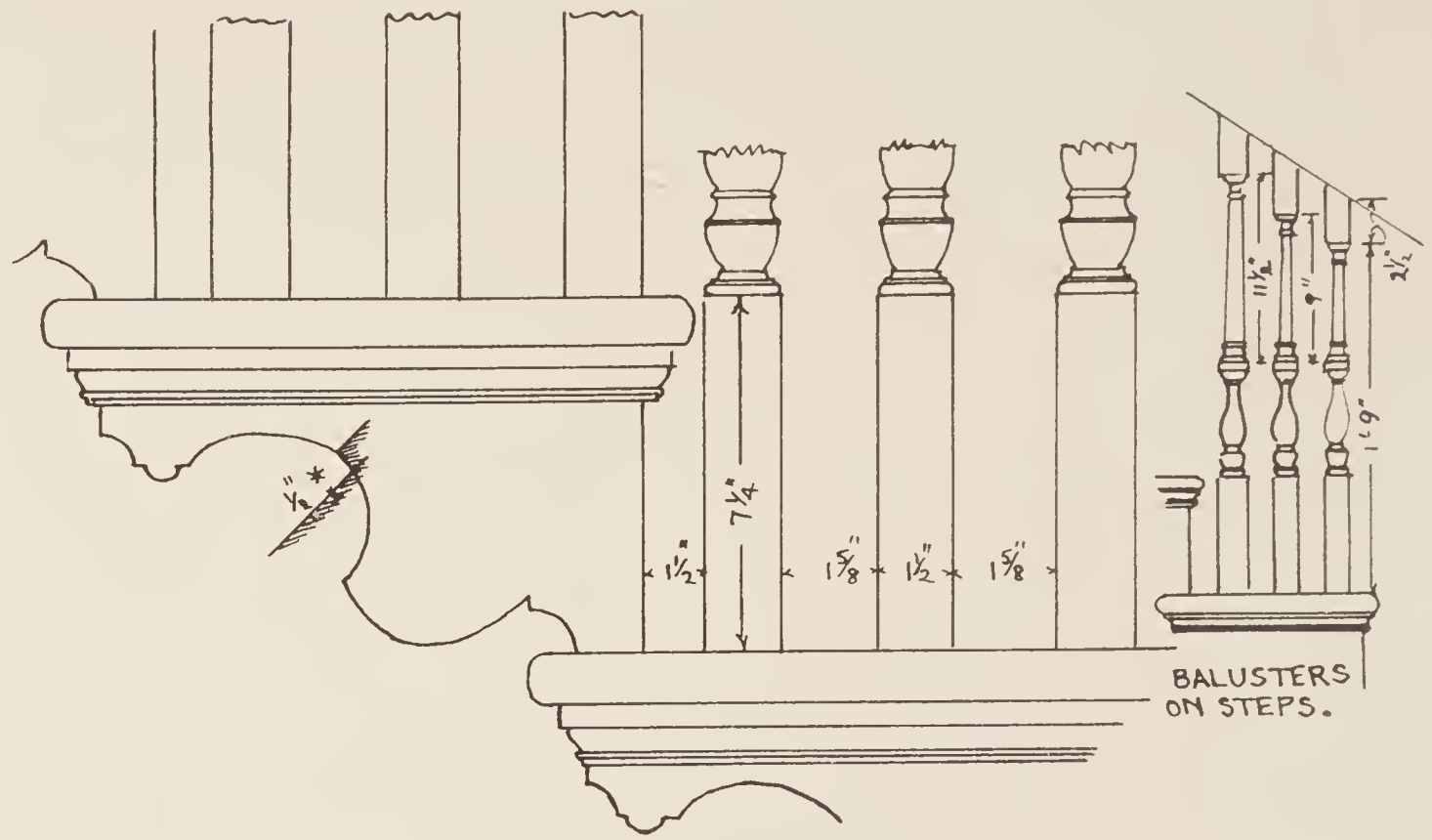
VIEW OF RAIL AT WALL - LOOKING DOWN.



HANDRAIL.

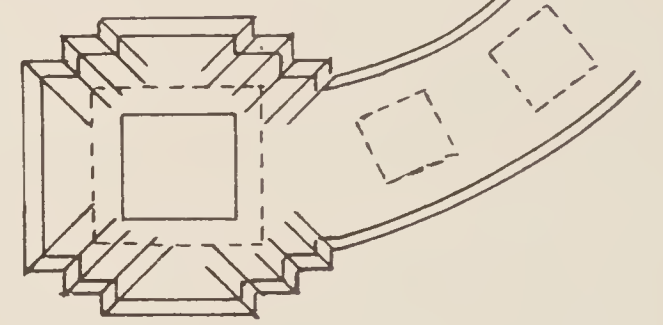


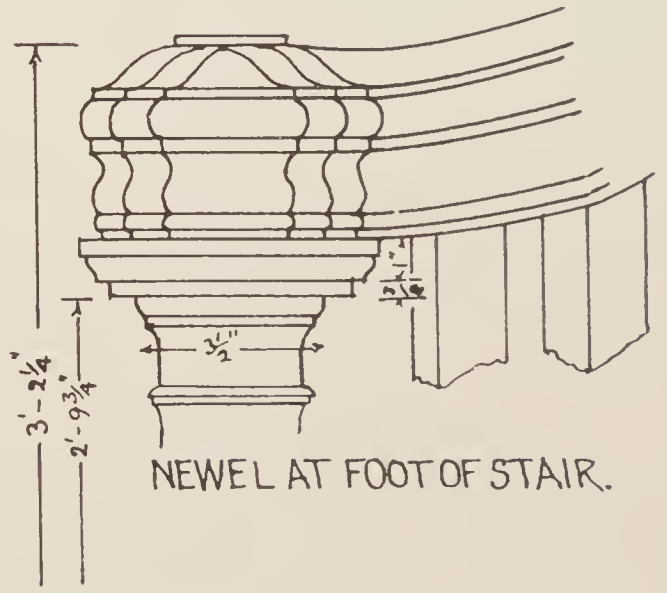
NEWELS AT HEAD OF STAIR.



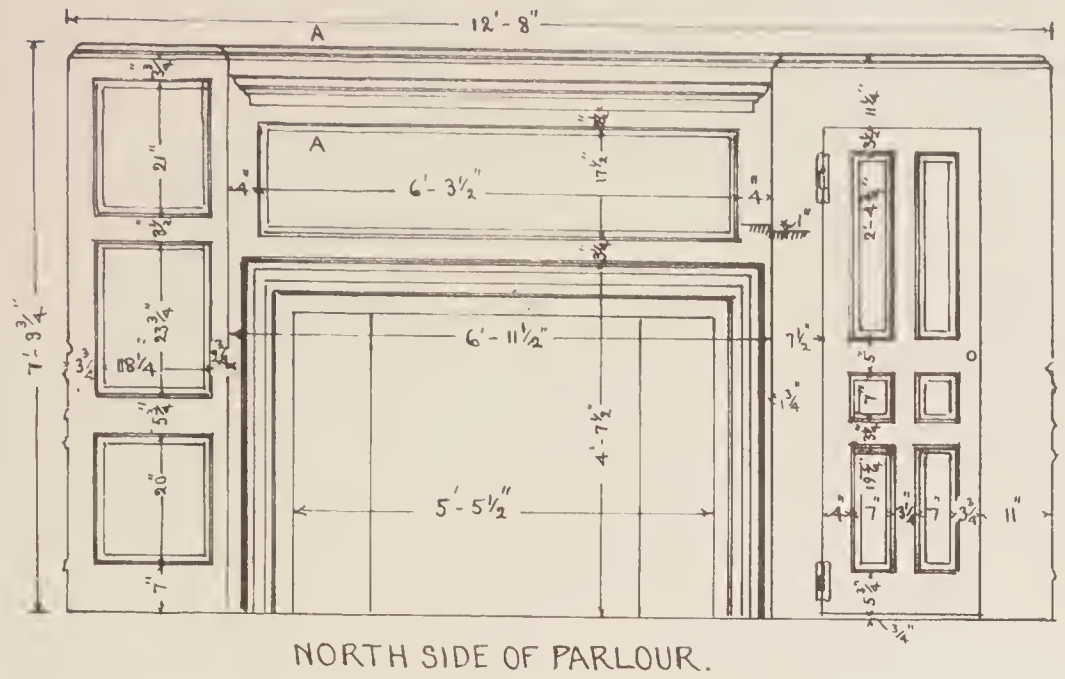
BALUSTERS ON STEPS.

DETAIL OF STAIRS.

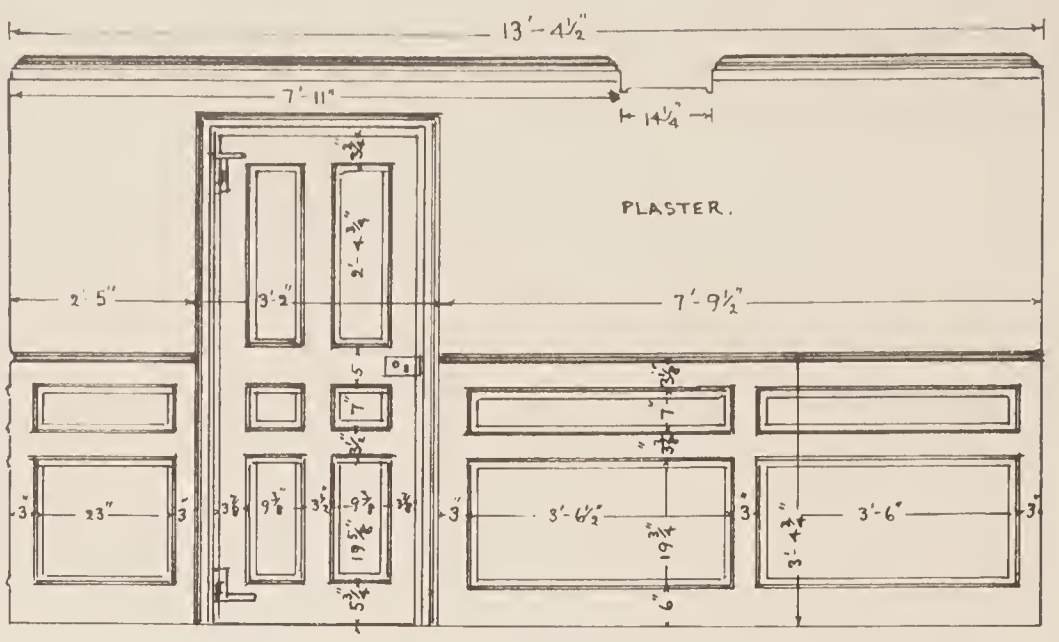




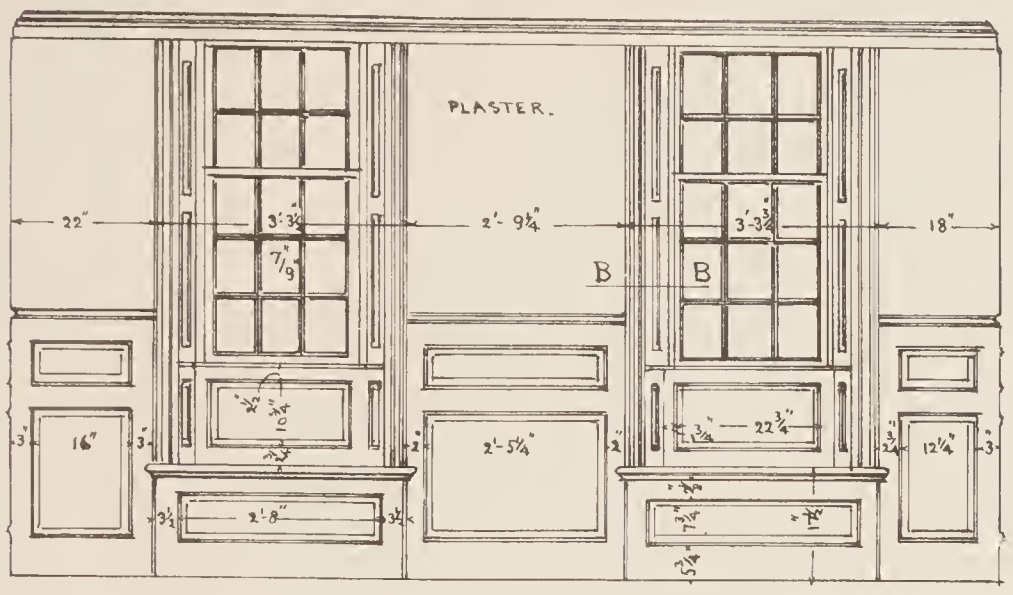
NEWEL AT FOOT OF STAIR.



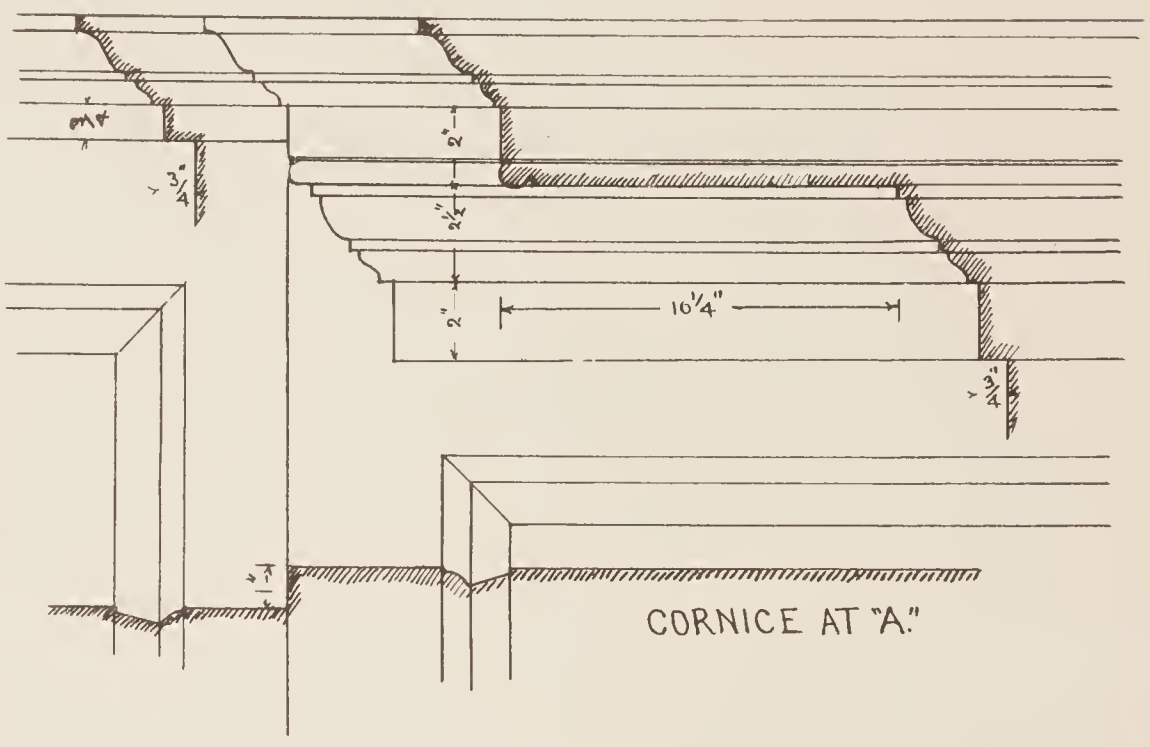
NORTH SIDE OF PARLOUR.



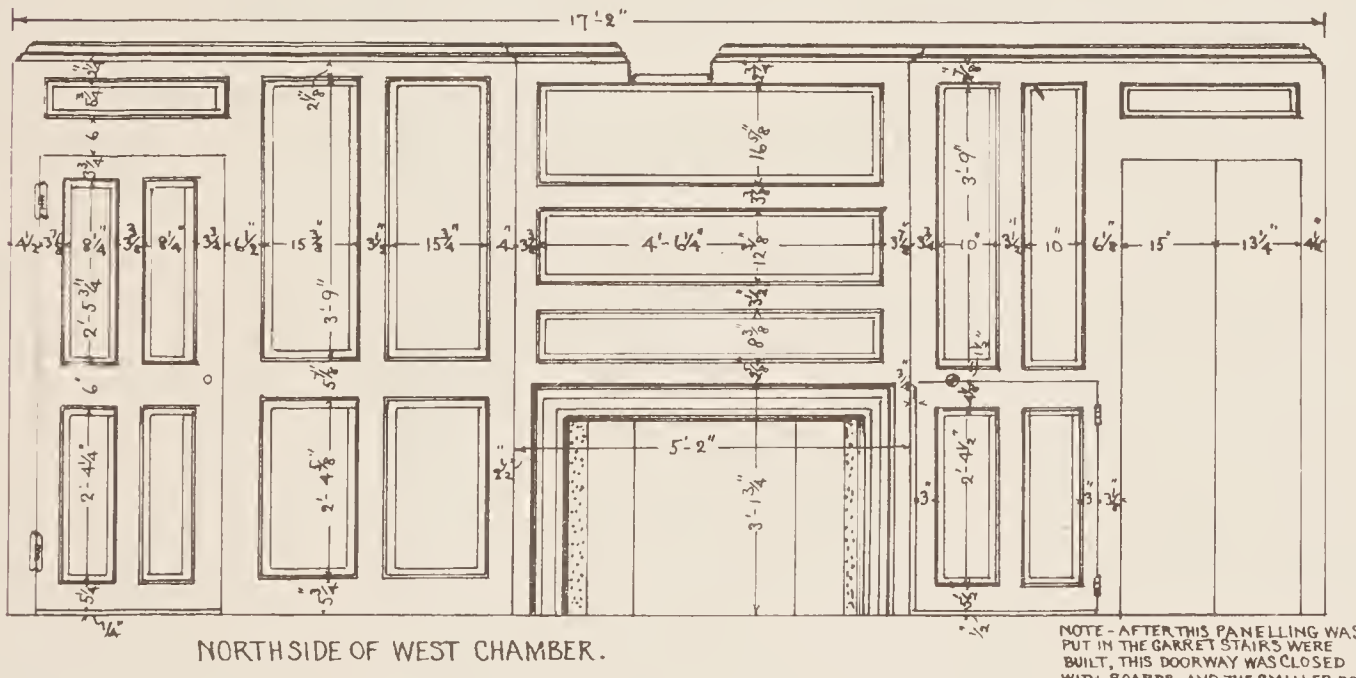
WEST SIDE OF PARLOUR.



SOUTH SIDE OF PARLOUR.

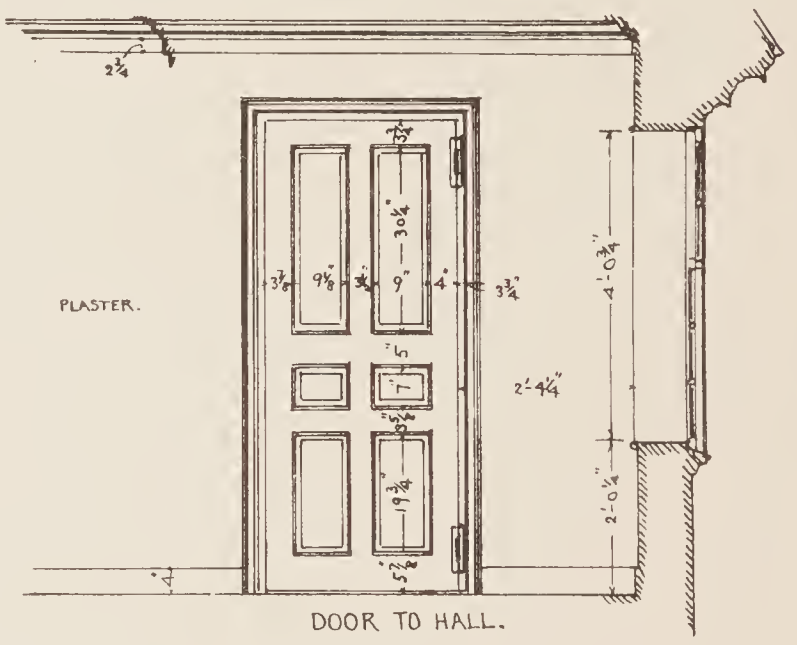


CORNICE AT "A."



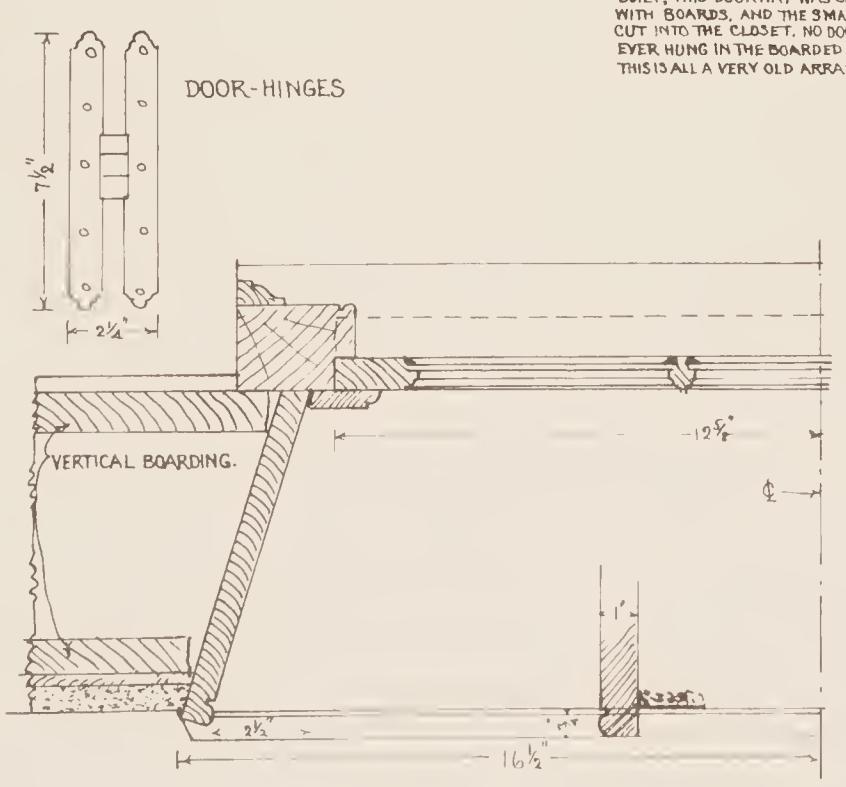
NORTH SIDE OF WEST CHAMBER.

NOTE - AFTER THIS PANELLING WAS PUT IN THE GARRET STAIRS WERE BUILT, THIS DOORWAY WAS CLOSED WITH BOARDS, AND THE SMALLER DOOR CUT INTO THE CLOSET. NO DOOR WAS EVER HUNG IN THE BOARDED OPENING. THIS IS ALL A VERY OLD ARRANGEMENT.

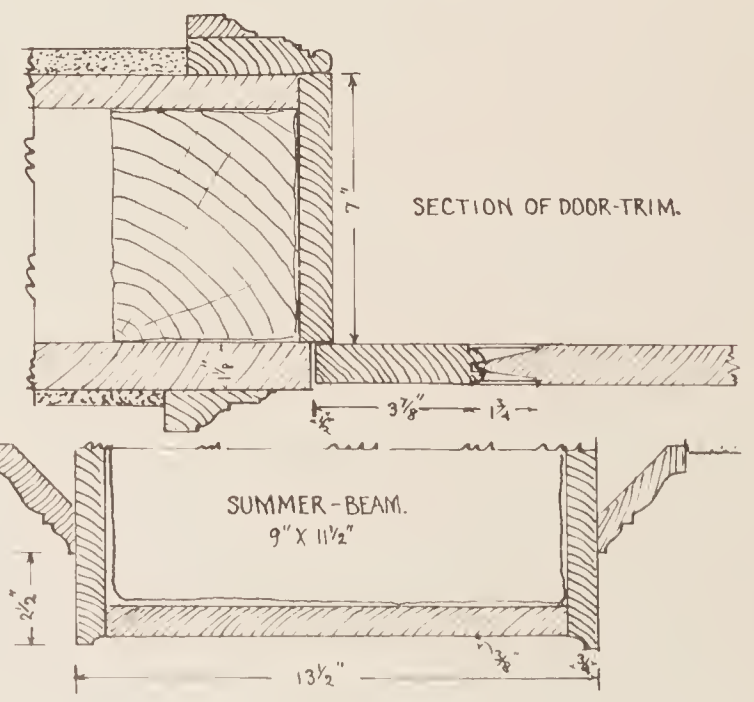


DOOR TO HALL.

WINDOWS.



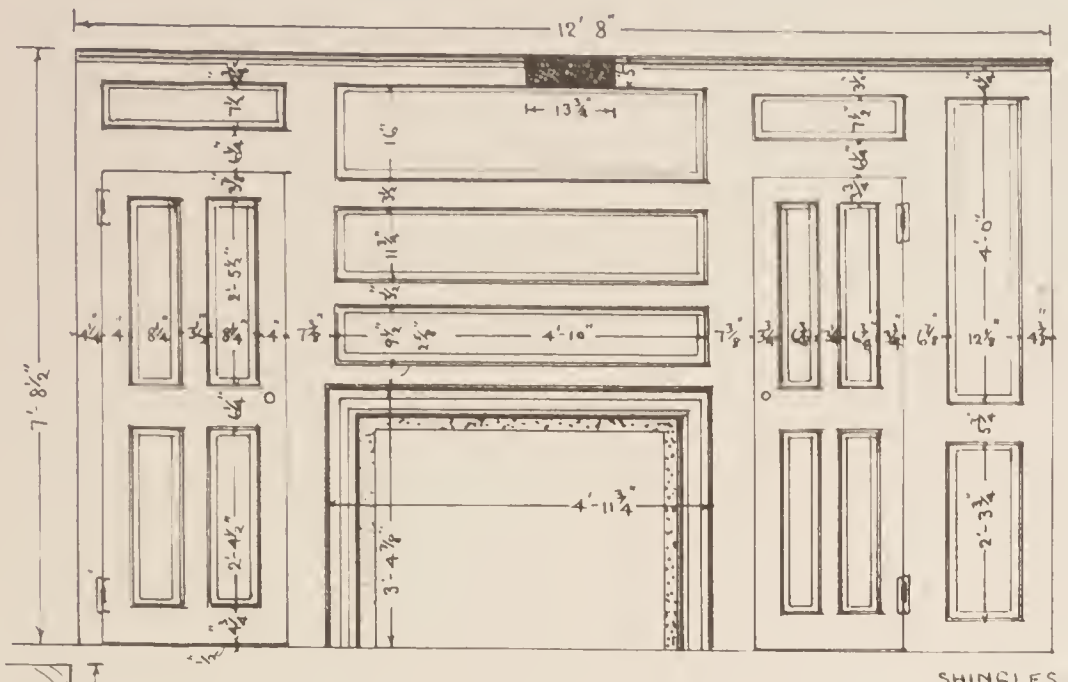
SECTION OF WINDOWS.



SECTION OF CASED SUMMER.

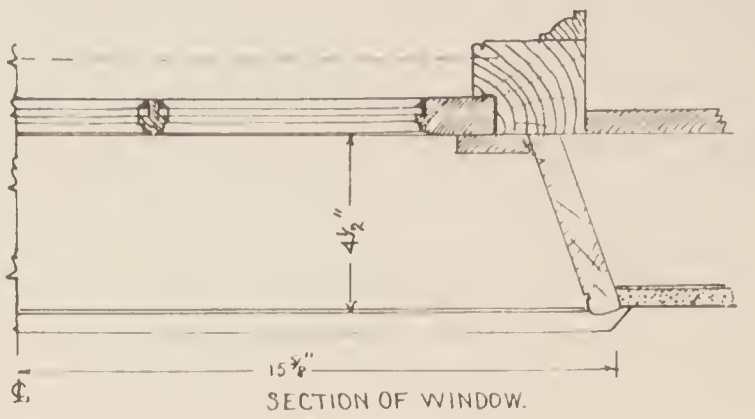
PLATE 40

FRONT DOORWAY AND WINDOWS.

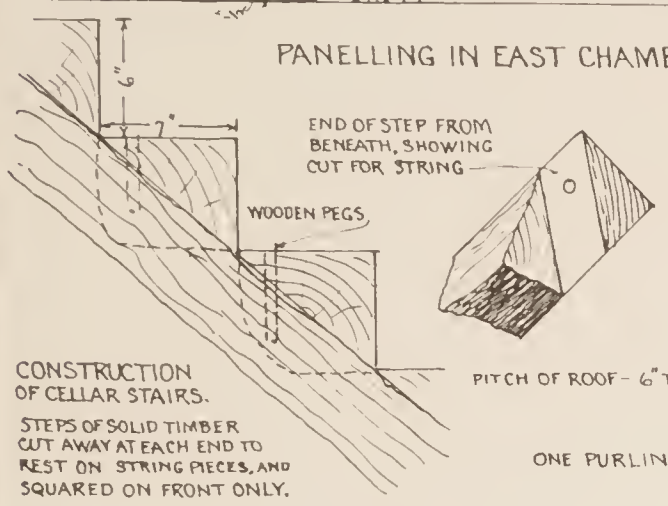


PANELLING IN EAST CHAMBER.

NOTE. THE HEIGHT OF THIS ROOM VARIES – 7'-8½" ON THE NORTH SIDE – 7'7¾" ON SOUTH. NO CORNICE AROUND ROOM. WINDOWS AS IN WEST CHAMBER.

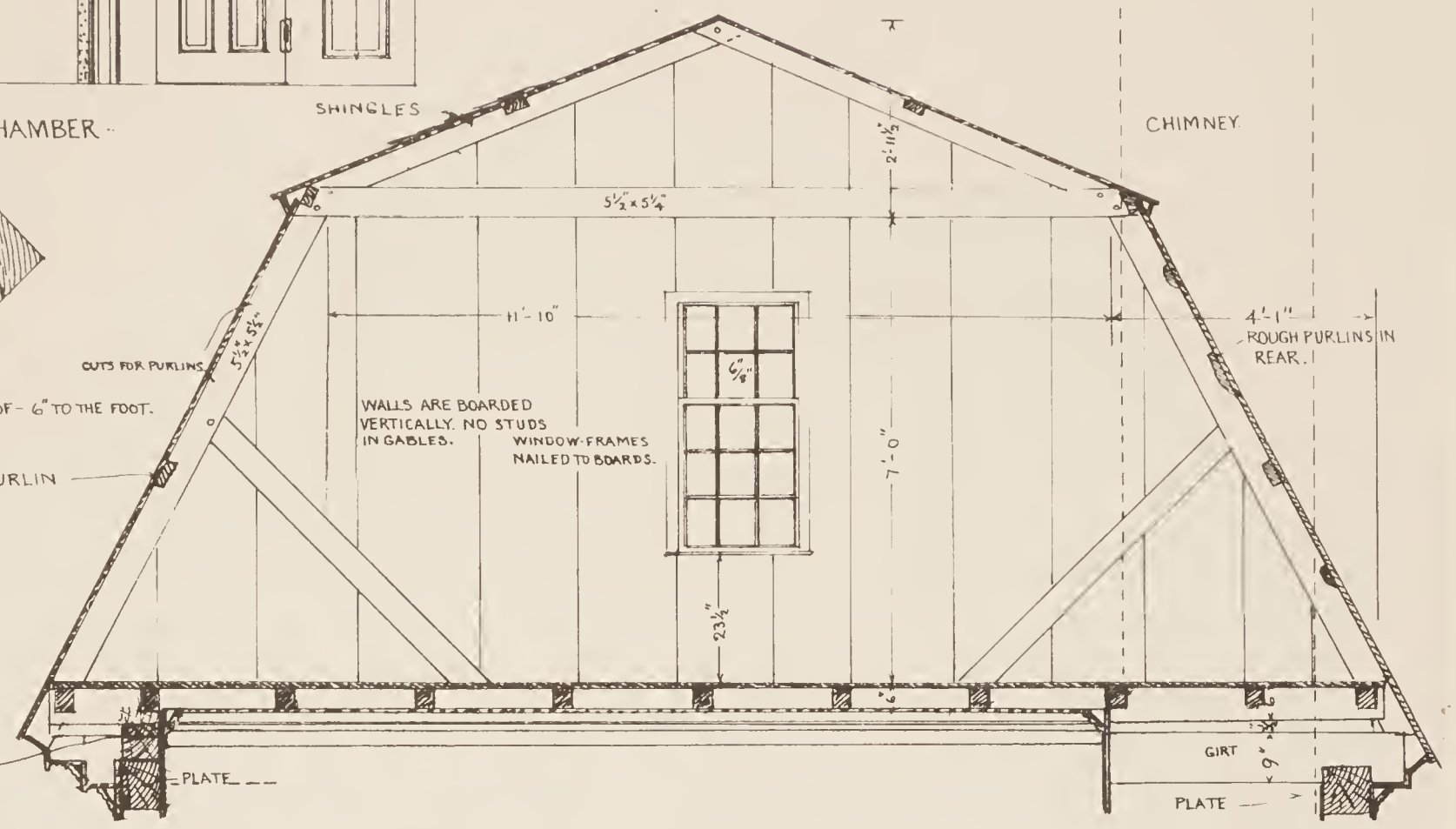


SECTION OF WINDOW. IN EAST CHAMBER



CONSTRUCTION OF CELLAR STAIRS.

STEPS OF SOLID TIMBER CUT AWAY AT EACH END TO REST ON STRING PIECES, AND SQUARED ON FRONT ONLY.

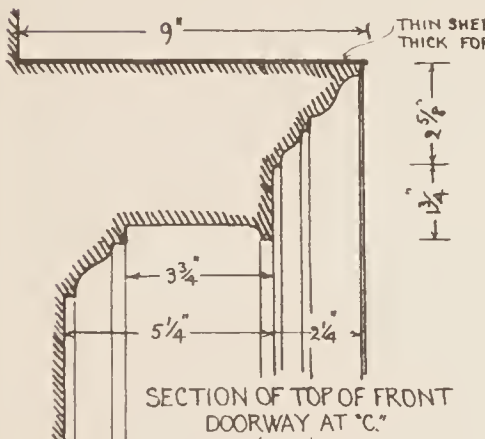


PITCH OF ROOF – 6" TO THE FOOT.

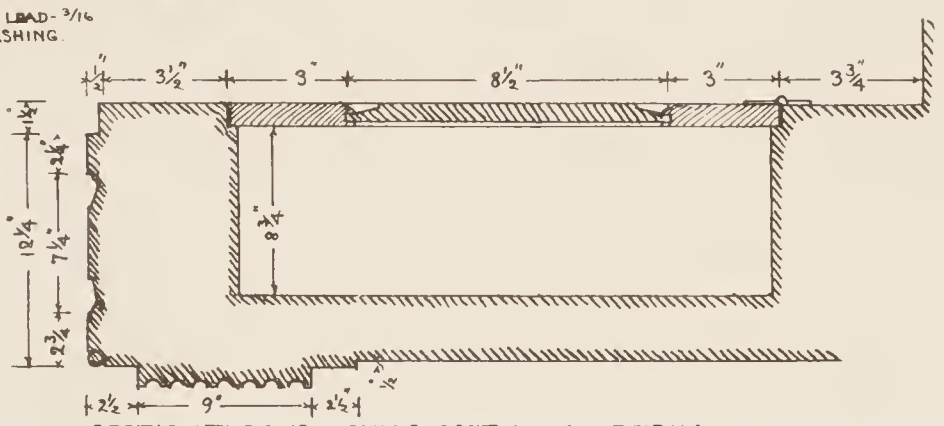
ONE PURLIN

FRAME OF ROOF.

ONE TRUSS OVER EACH GIRT AND SUMMER-BEAM.

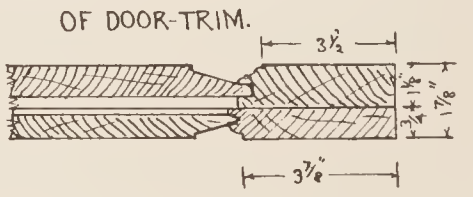


SECTION OF TOP OF FRONT DOORWAY AT "C."

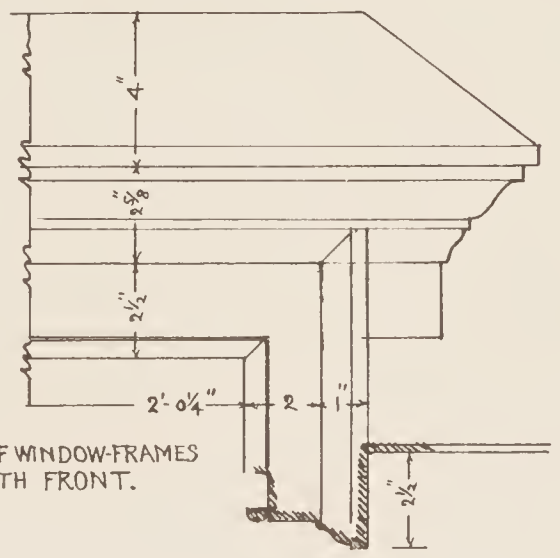


SECTION THROUGH GUN-CLOSET AND DOOR-TRIM.

SECTION OF PANELS OUTSIDE OF FRONT DOOR AND PANELLED SIDES OF DOOR-TRIM.

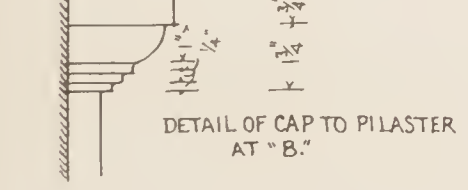


SECTION OF FRONT DOOR.



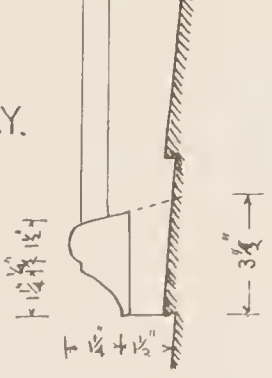
DETAIL OF WINDOW-FRAMES OF SOUTH FRONT.

CORNICE ON NORTH SIDE OF HOUSE.

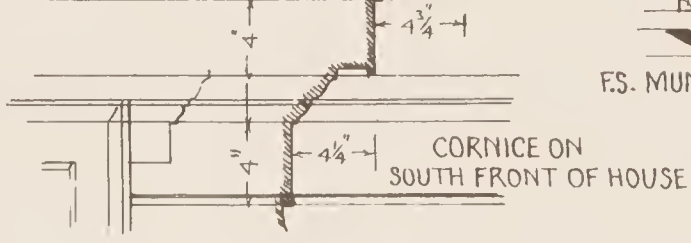


DETAIL OF CAP TO PILASTER AT "B."

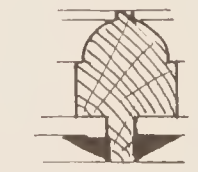
DETAILS OF FRONT DOORWAY.



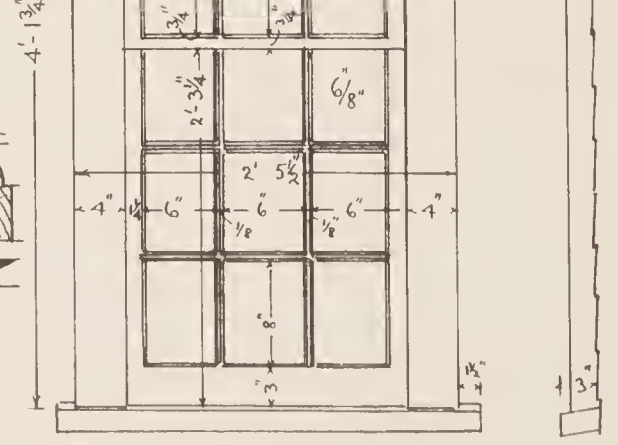
WINDOW SILLS ON SOUTH FRONT.



CORNICE ON SOUTH FRONT OF HOUSE.



F.S. MUNTIN.



WINDOW FRAMES ON WEST END.

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